UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO
801 SO. MORGAN
CHICAGO, IL 60607

JOINT REFERENCE
LIBRARY

JS
39
P87
1936
WARE

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, January 1

Child health

Services for Crippled Children under Social Security

Foundation for improved care of the country's 500,000 crippled children has been established by provisions of the federal social security act, but how effective the program will be depends on the states' cooperation.

In the current issue of Public Welfare News, bulletin of the American Public Welfare Association, Dr. R. C. Hood, director of the Crippled Children's Division of the U.S. Children's Bureau, points out that the lack of uniformity in the states' legal definitions of "crippled child" and in the interpretation of the laws will influence the working of the federal provisions.

The agency through which each state will officially carry out the services is undesignated. This was intentional, Dr. Hood says, since the type of agency authorized by law to care for crippled children varies in the different states. It may be the department of welfare, the department of health, the department of education or the crippled children's commission. Twenty-seven states now have officially designated agencies, and a number more are expected to name agencies by the first of the year.

The program for services will follow in a broad general way the plan of organization which has been so satisfactory in many states in the past, according to Dr. Hood. This will include surveys or census reports; diagnostic clinics; immediate follow-up from the clinics in providing hospitalization; convalescent homes and aftercare, and cooperation with the available education and rehabilitation services, so that training and education can go hand in hand with physical restoration. The investigation of the causes of crippling and constructive measures to prevent, control or eliminate these causes should also be an integral part of each state program.

"A complete plan for services to crippled children," he adds, "should prove an unparalleled opportunity for developing a cooperative undertaking on the part of hospitals, clinics, doctors, nurses, social workers and private organizations, as it will require the services of all these groups. The degree of effectiveness of the program will depend in a large measure on the extent to which each participates and the manner in which the services are correlated. Professional advisory groups on the technical phases are most essential....The proper development of a well-balanced program which will use all groups will serve to 'extend and improve' the services to crippled children and bring these services to the rural areas never reached before."

9494

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, January 2

Regionalism Study

Coordinated handling of natural resources and problem areas of the United States depends upon the development of governmental devices, regional in character, not now in general use. Thus does the National Resources Committee sum up findings of an exhaustive study, just published, on "Regional Factors in National Planning and Development." The report is largely the work of John M. Gaus, Jacob Crane, Marshall Dimock and George T. Renner, members of the National Resources Committee's committee on regional study. The study was made primarily to develop a technique for attacking problems involving the various levels of government and resources such as those of water, land, forest and mine.

"No administrative arrangements can be set up to deal with resources or problem areas and no large-scale improvements and constructions can be carried out as part of an integrated program without there being certain geographical implications attaching to them," the report cites. "All the different levels of government--national, interstate, state and local--and all the different departments in each of these, with responsibilities for dealing with the problems of the particular community or area under consideration must collaborate if adequate solutions for its problems are to be worked out and applied," the report continues. "Thus from the coordination of departments of government and the cooperation of the different units much of the comprehensive program must come."

To the familiar types of political areas "whose activity to be successful must be harmonized" must be added "the commodity or functional areas and the organized interest groups related to them," it is pointed out. "For example, the future development of the Lake States cut-over region will obviously involve far more than a forest policy in the narrower sense of the term. It involves preservation of wild life for the encouragement of future recreational use; protection of headwaters of streams supplying water for domestic use; power; and recreation for more thickly settled areas to the south; it requires special policies of public finance that will encourage permanent selective cutting of timber as against the mining of timber; it requires a coordination of railroad and highway transportation facilities best adapted to land uses and the public financial resources of the region; it requires special coordination of the kinds of public services that need to be maintained in the area and the resources available for financing them; and it requires a program of continuous research and investigation in order that policies may be kept flexibly in touch with any new knowledge and new trends in population movements, agriculture and markets."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th St., Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, January 3

Zoning, County

Rural Zoning To Save Taxpayers' Money

Restricting rural land use by county zoning, to lower governmental costs, is gaining in popularity in northern Wisconsin, first to try it out. During the two years since the legislature passed the county zoning law, according to The Wisconsin Taxpayer, about five million acres of land in twenty counties have been placed in restricted land use areas. Four other counties are studying zoning ordinances at their county board sessions this month and at least six others are discussing amendments to old ordinances.

The counties are zoned in two restricted classifications: (1) forestry districts, which permit such land uses as forestry and related industries, hydro-electric dams and power plants and harvesting of berries, moss, marsh hay, etc.; (2) recreation districts, which may include parks, playgrounds, resorts, summer cottages, boat liveries, in addition to the uses permitted in forest areas.

The purpose of the county zoning ordinance is not to dictate present use of the land but to control settlement where it would be harmful to the best public interest. This detriment might consist of establishing a year-round residence too far from public roads, or schools, or in an area being developed by county, state or federal governments for reforestation purposes, or on land not suited to agriculture. A man settling in these areas, it is pointed out, could demand roads and schools, and if he was unable to earn enough to support himself and family, he could demand public relief.

A county zoning ordinance in no way restricts the use which a present owner may make of his land, the Taxpayer points out. If, however, the land is located in a restricted-use district, it must be properly registered with the Register of Deeds when the use does not conform with the provisions of the ordinance. Many persons in the 20 Wisconsin counties are reported as using land "in conflict" with the zoning ordinances. They are allowed to continue to do so, and may even sell their land to be used in a "non-conforming" way, provided it is used in the same way as before its sale. It is estimated that about 2,000 farms in the restricted areas are being used for non-conforming purposes--only about 6 per cent of all the farms.

Laws on rural zoning were passed in three states--Michigan, Indiana and Tennessee--in 1935, according to the American Society of Planning Officials. Eight other states--California, New York, Maryland, Wisconsin, Washington, Virginia, Mississippi and Illinois--have some type of county planning or zoning, but Wisconsin has used hers most widely.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th St., Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, January 4

Training Schools for Public Employees

Training programs for employees in the public service, such as the School for Town Officers held recently in Rochester, N.Y., are of "the highest type of public benefit" according to Clifford W. Ham, executive director of the American Municipal Association. The Rochester school, sponsored jointly by the Rochester "Democrat and Chronicle" and the Association of Towns of the State of New York, was in session two days and was attended by some 700 town officers from all over the state. Mr. Ham further says:

"Two main avenues are open for the improvement of public personnel, the first being pre-entry training which has been carried on for a number of years through universities and other educational programs for the equipment of people to assume the responsibilities of public administration service. Much has been accomplished in this line and there has been built up a body of trained and technically equipped public administrators. The great majority of public employees, however, now in service, have not had the advantage of such technical training and the responsibilities and conditions affecting their work have developed so rapidly in recent years that they find themselves in need of the opportunity of special study if they are to keep pace with the demands of modern life. This group, too, has behind it a long and valuable period of service and an acquaintanceship with the problems of public administration that is of extreme value to the communities which they serve.

"Therefore, in-service training has become a first essential to the improvement of local public administration through the education and training of employees now in service. The New York State Conference of Mayors and other state municipal leagues have carried on in-service training schools for public employees for a number of years. A great deal of study is now being given to matters of curriculum, rewards for merit, qualifications of employees, proper personnel administration and allied problems. The subjects discussed at the Rochester school are but indicative of the great variety of problems that demand collective study and thought.

"It is through these programs that the whole movement of adult education can be further carried out by making provisions for schools and training programs for employees in public service which, of course, constitute one of the most important groups within the community."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

Release: Monday, January 6

S P O
LIBRARY
FEB 4 1936

School Surveys

Governmental researchers looking for ways of eliminating waste and inefficiency in the operation of governments are not neglecting the schools, according to Robert M. Paige, secretary of the Governmental Research Association. Independent governmental research agencies have submitted public education policies and practices to careful scrutiny in many communities during the past year.

In Cincinnati the Bureau of Governmental Research arranged for a comprehensive survey which was carried on by experts from the United States Office of Education.

In Dayton, O., the governmental research bureau prepared a report on financial trends and financial policies, making a series of recommendations.

In New Haven, Conn. and Providence, R.I., the citizen-supported bureaus of municipal research investigated the trends in school attendance and reported on the extent to which existing school buildings were being used to capacity, and the need for new buildings.

The Taxpayers' League of Duluth, Minn. completed several major sections of a comprehensive report on constructive economy in the administration of public education. In Boston the Bureau of Municipal Research made public figures showing that elementary school enrollment has been declining for nine years and that in spite of the increase in high school enrollment, the total school attendance is now decreasing. The bureau pointed out that the decrease in total attendance has resulted in smaller classes, and that if each class were increased by only one pupil, an annual saving of $250,000 could be achieved.

Several studies of state school systems were also completed in 1935 or are getting under way early this year. In Illinois and Pennsylvania official legislative commissions are at work on educational problems. In New York the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York has embarked upon a two-year study of educational costs and services. This probably will be the most comprehensive state educational survey ever conducted, according to Mr. Paige, who says that the findings undoubtedly will be helpful in revising educational programs in other states.

In Colorado the Bureau of Governmental Research of the state university published a report showing the economies which could be achieved if the number of independent school districts were drastically reduced by a consolidation program.

"Education is the biggest public business," Mr. Paige comments. "Of the total number of government employees--federal, state and municipal--educators account for more than 36 per cent. It is highly important that this business be intelligently planned and economically and efficiently administered. We shall never have a final detailed answer to the questions 'What to teach' and 'How to teach it,' but we know that existing educational conditions can be improved from the standpoint of both the pupil and the taxpayer."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, January 7

State Aid for Libraries

State aid for public libraries was given new impetus during 1935, according to reports made at the recent conference of the American Library Association in Chicago, when the association council reaffirmed its stand for increased state support of libraries.

Increased state aid, it was pointed out, "is due in part to the adoption by various states of tax limitation laws--notably Indiana, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Washington and West Virginia--which impaired the ability of cities to maintain libraries." Twelve states report increased appropriations to their state library agencies, it was revealed, in one case the increase being as high as 300 per cent.

Illinois was designated as one of the most forward-looking of the 45 states now engaged in library planning under the leadership of the American Library Association because of the recent legislative appropriation of $600,000 to replace depleted book stocks in some 270 public libraries of the state. Ohio was also accorded recognition because of a similar grant of $100,000 to aid Ohio libraries. The new library law in the state of Washington recognizes public library support as a state educational duty.

The council of the American Library Association expressed itself in resolution as believing that increased demand for library services, coupled with reduced library support from local units of government, emphasizes the need for financial help from other than local sources. It was also the opinion of the council that state aid to libraries would tend to equalize the distribution of library facilities.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, January 8

Review of Police Progress in 1935

Expansion of the police training program is rated the most outstanding achievement made in the police field last year by the Police Chiefs' News Letter, official bulletin of the Internation Association of Chiefs of Police. Most significant of the training courses, it points out, is the National Police Training school of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which graduated 25 state, county and municipal police officials from its first session and is now about to open its second school. New training courses inaugurated included those in Kentucky and West Virginia, which were worked out by police officials and the state leagues of municipalities. The Pennsylvania State Police School was thrown open to county and municipal police officers. Short course programs were continued in New York, Virginia, Kansas, Northwestern and Ohio State universities, Hobart College and other institutions.

Considerable progress is noted in universal identification. Voluntary fingerprinting received some impetus, the civil file of the Federal Bureau of Investigation now containing approximately 90,000 prints in addition to more than 5,500,000 fingerprints of criminals. New methods of identification such as talking motion pictures and eye photographs were developed.

By the end of 1935 approximately 300 cities and 15 states were operating police radio systems, an increase of about 100 stations during the year. Approximately 75 municipalities installed two-way police radio. The Associated Police Communication Officials, organized during the year, developed a plan for interstate radio communication which has been indorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Significant steps were taken to reorganize police agencies in Minnesota, New York, Texas, Pennsylvania and other states. In Minnesota and North Carolina large additions were made to the personnel of the state highway patrols. In New York the reporting of criminal statistics to the State Department of Correction and the forwarding of fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation were both made mandatory. In Texas the rangers were consolidated with the state highway patrol and new identification, communications and intelligence units were established. In Pennsylvania industrial police were made illegal.

Great interest was shown in the possibilities of interstate crime compacts. The Interstate Commission on Crime, established late in the year, began immediate drafting of interstate crime compacts and a number of the proposals were tentatively approved before the end of the year, for submission to state legislatures.

Increasing attention was given by police departments to traffic safety, through the extension of accident investigation and prevention bureaus, traffic safety and education cars, and drives on traffic violators. Purdue University established a Public Safety Institute.

The news letter comments that all police and safety organizations will probably make an even more determined attempt in 1936 to check the continued rise in traffic accidents and fatalities. It is estimated that approximately 36,000 persons were killed in traffic accidents in 1935.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, January 9

Interstate Compacts in the Tax Field

How interstate compacts can be useful instruments in establishing sane and sensible state and local revenue systems is explained by Mark Graves, president of the New York State Tax Commission, in the January issue of State Government, official magazine of the Council of State Governments.

Although Commissioner Graves does not believe that any sovereign state should contract with another to impose or avoid imposing a given form of tax, since economic, industrial and social conditions vary so widely, he is of the opinion that interstate compacts are entirely practical on the administrative side of the tax field. As examples of problems which might be solved by compacts he cites:

1. The New York Tax Commission's present attempt to tax three interrelated New Jersey corporations who do the bulk of their business--trucking poultry--in New York, but do not maintain a place of business within the state's borders. Inasmuch as New York "home" corporations are taxed for the privilege of exercising corporate franchises, in fairness to New York truckmen, the New Jersey corporations should be taxed, too. Under an interstate compact it would be possible to employ measures which would permit New York State or its Tax Commission to enter New Jersey, appear in its courts and compel the corporations in question to comply with the laws of New York State.

2. The inheritance tax fight between New Jersey and Pennsylvania over the Dorrance (Campbell Soup) estate. After the death of Mr. Dorrance, both states asserted their right to tax his estate, each claiming him as a resident. The states were able to do this because at present each has the right to decide what constitutes residence or domicile. Compacts providing for uniformity of residence or domicile rules would eliminate the possibility of double taxation.

3. State retail sales taxes, which are now difficult to administer because the sales in interstate commerce cannot be taxed by the state in which the seller lives or by the state in which the buyer resides.

"Reciprocal provisions in taxation have already demonstrated their value and usefulness," says Commissioner Graves. "Fifteen years ago," he continues, "in their eagerness to tax everything within their reach, American states had enacted inheritance tax laws which often resulted in taxation of the same property in two or more states even where there was no question as to domicile. To correct this situation reciprocal laws were passed providing, for example, that New York would not tax the intangibles of Massachusetts decedents if Massachusetts would refrain from taxing the intangibles of New York decedents. Within ten years the movement has spread so that multiple taxation of inheritances has become a matter of merely historical interest."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, January 10

How Cities Feel about WPA and Relief

What 20 "sample" communities of the country, widely different in size and geographical location, think of the present status of their relief programs and the future prospects for adequate care of indigent unemployed through WPA and direct relief is contained in the results of a questionnaire survey published today by the International City Managers' Association.

The report, which appears in the January issue of Public Management, indicates feeling on the part of the cities that the "facile distribution of the relief load among several levels of government according to employability is not developing precisely according to plan."

According to the cities' estimates, the proportion of "employables" who are and will be taken care of under WPA varies from 20 to 100 per cent. Only three cities believe that all the people without jobs who can work can be assigned to WPA projects. A number of cities feel that eligibility requirements for work under WPA have two undesirable effects: (1) the requirement that applicants must have been on relief during the summer ignores seasonal unemployment, a disturbing factor particularly in northern cities; (2) the "seniority" requirement for eligibility penalizes those who have avoided relief thus far and places a premium on continued attachment to relief rolls.

Those "employables" not reached by WPA will be cared for generally in the same manner as unemployables--by direct relief, the survey shows. West Virginia cities, where local revenues have been depleted excessively by tax limitations, report no plans for handling "employables," and the same is true of Forth Worth, Texas.

Cities are following many kinds of procedure to cope with the problem of caring for unemployables and WPA ineligibles created by the stopping of federal funds for direct relief. In Colorado a 2 per cent sales tax is shared with the counties for relief purposes. Columbus, Georgia, expects to meet the problem by a combination of

(MORE)

county, city and private resources. Most communities feel that state aid must be increased if relief funds are to be adequate. At least four communities must borrow to meet relief needs.

Eight of the 20 communities studied consider that under present conditions state, municipal and private funds will not be adequate to meet relief needs. Four city managers anticipate suffering in their communities during the winter, one of them believing that it will be the "worst winter yet."

Nine of the 20 city managers consulted "scored the vacillating policy of the federal government." They were practically agreed that any policy consistently followed was preferable to the present "month-to-month" policy. The officials also fear a sudden cessation of WPA in the spring which, they feel, would produce an economic collapse similar to that caused by the liquidation of CWA in 1934. One manager feels that the limit of productive expenditures on "make-work" programs has been reached and that there must be a return to direct relief. Reports were almost unanimous that federal or state governments must assume a major portion of the relief load for "unemployables" and "employables" alike in the future as in the past.

Arlington County, Virginia, reports that it does not have any relief problem at present and therefore has no WPA experience to report.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, January 11

National Civil Service Week

For the week beginning tomorrow civic, professional and official groups of local, state and national importance will combine to observe the 53rd anniversary of the passage of the Federal Civil Service Law. The week has been designated as National Civil Service Week.

Through the courtesy of the National Broadcasting Company a period from 7:30 to 7:45 p.m. on January 17 has been assigned to the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada. The Assembly has designated as its speakers Clifford N. Amsden, secretary and chief examiner of the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission and president of the Civil Service Assembly, and Charles P. Messick, chief examiner and secretary of the New Jersey Civil Service Commission and a member of the executive council of the Civil Service Assembly. Mr. Amsden and Mr. Messick will speak over a nationwide hookup from Los Angeles and New York, respectively. The Mutual Broadcasting System has donated a full half hour of time during the week for talks on better public personnel administration.

Numerous local programs are being arranged by the National League of Women Voters, the National Civil Service Reform League, the American Federation of Labor, the United States Civil Service Commission, the National Federation of Women's Clubs, the American Farm Bureau Federation and employee associations and veterans' organizations.

Civil service commissioners and executive officers of commissions have definite places in this program to promote better public understanding of the merit system, the Civil Service Assembly points out. In a letter to its members the Assembly suggested that such officers "contact the local unit of the National League of Women Voters and cooperate with that unit in its program; arrange with local Lions, Kiwanis and Rotary clubs and other service organizations to devote their meetings during National Civil Service Week to a consideration of the merit system; discuss the merit system with local editors and furnish them with information about civil service."

"Through such widespread cooperative effort," G. Lyle Belsley, executive director of the Civil Service Assembly, says, "it is hoped to gain much greater public attention to the need for adopting and extending the merit system in public service personnel administration."

JT. LIBRARY

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th St., Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, January 13

Security for Public Deposits Pittlich-Faust

Real protection for the bank accounts of state and local governments would involve reform of the entire national banking system, but in the meantime governments can help themselves by setting up improved safeguards for public deposits and mending their own financial practices.

Existing safeguards are of little real value, according to Martin L. Faust, of the University of Missouri,whose study, The Security of Public Deposits, is issued today by Public Administration Service. Local governments learned this lesson during the depression, when $400,000,000 of frozen public deposits meant payless pay-days, debt defaults, closed schools and sudden curtailment of vital public services.

Professor Faust finds at least eight different devices which governments have used as safety checks for public deposits. In some states the courts have held that governmental units are preferred creditors when a bank closes and liquidates. Some governments, especially local units, make their financial officers personally liable for losses due to bank failures. Iowa, Wisconsin and Indiana have systems of state insurance covering public deposits exclusively. In many states banks are required to guarantee public deposits by either personal or corporate surety bonds. In other jurisdictions banks, to qualify as public depositories, must pledge assets as collateral security.

These methods are criticized by Professor Faust. Giving priority rights to public deposits in the event of bank failure is widely condemned as unfair to private depositors and is in direct conflict with the state's interest in building a banking structure in which the people will have confidence. Holding the treasurer personally liable is regarded with extreme disfavor because no single person can fairly be held responsible for conditions he cannot control. Responsible men are discouraged from accepting public office. State insurance did not hold up in Iowa and Wisconsin during the depression; its chief weaknesses have been the unsound actuarial basis upon

(MORE)

which the systems have operated, the failure to couple with insurance measures designed to strengthen the banking structure, and the handicap of the limited area within which a single state system may operate. Surety bonds have proved undependable: the cost of the bonds is prohibitive to banks, and the companies are free to cancel them at will, or to refuse to renew, which they have done as soon as financial conditions became serious. Collateral security, while the most effective safeguard now in use, is not depression-proof: the critical situation in the security market during the recent crisis made difficult for a time the liquidation of the types of securities usually required.

Other methods of safeguarding public funds now in use Mr. Faust finds more promising. He points out that the state-owned banks of Delaware and North Dakota weathered the economic crisis without jeopardizing the safety of their public deposits, and expresses the opinion that this scheme deserves further trial, "perhaps by cooperative action on the part of local governments within a region or by individual states."

"A central bank might even by organized to function as a depository for all public funds," says Mr. Faust, "although the sentiment which has crystallized in opposition to a central government bank makes it inexpedient to attempt the plan just at this time." In his opinion Federal Reserve banks could properly be used as depositories by all governmental units. He advocates, too, that the present Federal insurance of public deposits up to $5,000 be extended to cover public deposits in full, the cost of additional insurance to be assessed against the total amount of public deposits insured.

All these devices, however, says Mr. Faust, are no more important than the reforms public bodies themselves can make to minimize the risk of their funds in banks.

"One way to secure public deposits," he remarks, "is not to have any." This paradoxical statement suggests the sound practice of keeping deposits at a minimum by maintaining only a sufficient cash balance to meet the obligations of government as they arise. To follow such a plan, however, finance officers must learn to time cash receipts and expenditures properly; and they must be able to forecast in accurate estimates for months in advance the cash requirements of their governmental units. Surplus funds, if there are any, may be invested in United States government obligations.

Professor Faust advises that public deposits be placed in Federal Reserve member banks, distributed in several, if possible, and the amounts of the deposits given publicity. He points out that the new Federal Banking Act governs the rate of interest on time and savings deposits of member banks, so that the maximum interest rates on public deposits may soon be fixed in virtually all commercial banks, which will make bidding for deposits less attractive than it once was.

As a final word of advice, he adds that "in both state and local governments adequate provision for audits, abandonment of the system of elective treasurers, and the creation of an integrated financial sturcture permitting effective centralized fiscal control would tend greatly to eliminate the hazards that jeopardize the safety of public funds in banks."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, January 14

Social Facts on Cities

If you are looking for a city in which to become permanently established--a city which must meet your own social specifications--Prof. William F. Ogburn, University of Chicago sociologist, can probably help you. He has just completed a ten-part study, in which he compares cities, grouped according to population, as to their crime frequency and intensity, church membership, recreation facilities, schools, taxes, death and birth rates, size of families, and other social and population characteristics. Its first chapter, dealing with population traits, appears today in Public Management, official magazine of the International City Managers' Association, which is serializing results of the study.

Prof. Ogburn set out to make the study with the purpose of showing how social characteristics of cities vary according to the size of communites, regional locations, rates of growth and decline and their specialization in particular activities. Four hundred and thirty-four cities were examined. They were divided into nine groups that ranged from 2,500 population and under to a million and over. Some facts he found and interpretations he made follow:

Modern cities have larger proportions of "middle-aged" people--between 20 and 55 years--than has the nation as a whole. Thus the city is favored economically, if not according to other values, since middle-aged people are judged as earners.

Big cities have larger percentages of the middle-aged than do the smaller ones. They also have fewer old people. In agricultural villages with populations under 2,500 there are relatively many more young people than middle-aged, but there are also more old people. Farms have a ratio of youth to middle-age about twice that of cities.

Fewer babies are born in the large cities than in the smaller ones, although the former now have a rather high percentage of adults of child-bearing age. Prof. Ogburn observes that the big cities, with apartment houses and congested and dangerous streets, may not be so hospitable to babies and children.

Women like cities, while the work of men is needed on farms, as inferred from the ratio of men to women. In the cities there are 97 men to 100 women, while out in the open country there are 115 men to 100 women. Women are not in excess in the very large cities, however, as might be expected. Crime is less prevalent where there are more women.

Immigrants from the farms of Europe and Mexico settle in the largest cities of the country, though not necessarily because of their industrial character. The percentages of immigrant workers in factories are about the same in cities of different sizes, but foreign-born whites are proportionately more numerous in the cities of larger population. In the villages and the open country only 3.5 per cent are foreign-born.

Prof. Ogburn finds that incomes are about one-third higher in the largest cities than in the smaller places of 25,000 to 50,000 persons. In a city of over a million, factory workers were paid an average of $1,570 in 1929, while in a city of 25,000 they received about $1,190. Although it probably costs more to live in the largest cities--rent twice as high being the most noticeably varying item--certain indications still favor a margin for city incomes. There are more income taxpayers per 1,000 adult inhabitants in the larger cities than in the small, for example. If the possession of a radio is an index of income: more families in large cities had radios in 1930 than in smaller places, while only 21 per cent of the farm families had them.

Prof. Ogburn continues his study of cities with articles concerning occupations, social services, family organization and the like, and will conclude the series with a discussion of desirable and undesirable characteristics of cities.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, January 15

Personnel Picture

Civil Service in 1935

Civil service, writing its history for 1935, has four significant accomplishments to note, according to the January issue of the Civil Service Assembly News Letter:

1. Publication of the findings and recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry on Public Service Personnel, which heard what officials and laymen from nearly thirty cities had to say about the working of the merit system in public personnel administration.

2. Launching of a two-year campaign by the National League of Women Voters on behalf of the merit system in government.

3. Adoption of local civil service provisions by a number of cities and counties in the United States, including Bridgeport, Conn.; Clearwater and Jacksonville, Fla.; Jefferson County, Birmingham and Bessemer, Ala.; Memphis, Tenn.; Waco and El Paso, Tex.; Flint and Dearborn, Mich.; and San Diego County, California.

4. Establishment of a Graduate School of Public Administration at Harvard University. This will be opened in September, 1937, after a commission of five leading educators and students of governmental administration has made a comprehensive report on university education for public service and set up recommendations for the school's organization.

Less spectacular, but of basic value, the news letter comments, were the steady advances made in recruiting, classification, service rating and other technical personnel functions. This is an important function of the Civil Service Assembly, which established its international headquarters office in Chicago also during the past year.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, January 16

Govt., Cost of

Uneconomical Economies

Local governments, watchful lest expenditures exceed income, thus creating financial deficits, should beware of another kind of deficit--accumulated maintenance and replacement needs, warns Frank W. Herring, executive director of the Joint Secretariat of the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials.

Writing in the January issue of the Public Works Engineers' News Letter, bulletin of the secretariat, Mr. Herring says that in many American communities the accumulated deficit of maintenance and replacement represents "a situation of extreme hazard." Streets, bridges, sewers, water systems, public buildings and many other highly prized and indispensable physical facilities of community life are slowly but surely "going to pot," he comments.

"Not long ago a metropolitan city of more than a million population reported that its rate of replacing worn-out streets was but a fraction of the rate at which they were wearing out. Within the past month another metropolis let it be known that city property of all kinds has been wasting away during the past four years. Smaller communities are in the same boat. Funds available for the preservation of the value of existing public property are entirely inadequate for the purpose."

Cities and counties may avoid immediate financial embarrassment by cutting down on their funds for mainterance and replacement, he points out, but unless they are prepared ultimately to abandon the properties they are now neglecting, the rub will come when complete replacement becomes necessary.

"When financial survival alone was a pressing problem a year or two ago," Mr. Herring says, "drastic emergency measures were justified. The indefinite continuance of such measures is suicidal. It is essential that the deficits in maintenance and replacement that have accumulated during the emergency years be wiped out at the earliest possible moment. If continued much longer, present levels of expenditure for this purpose will spell havoc for the American community."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, January 17.

Assessors and Tax Commissions

From a clerical job that most anyone might perform to a highly specialized professional occupation; from a jealously guarded prerogative to a cooperative enterprise. This trend in the assessor's function has become increasingly noticeable during the past few years, according to Albert W. Noonan, technical director of the National Association of Assessing Officers. Says Mr. Noonan:

"At one time very little attention was paid to assessment practice and the function was regarded as relatively unimportant. With the growth of governmental services and the burden of taxation to pay their cost, together with the complex nature of property that has developed, there has come much greater realization of the important place which the assessor really occupies and the power that has been placed in his hands. Along with this realization has appeared the necessity of establishing some form of central control over the function in order that local assessors should not be law unto themselves." The results of this realization, he points out, are state tax commissions and similar bodies.

"For some time after their creation, assessors and tax commissions alike were inclined to think and act as though they served opposing interests, when the duties of both were practically identical," Mr. Noonan continues. "In recent years, a decided change in attitudes has occurred, best evidenced by the enactment of legislation and the adoption of practices designed to bring about a much closer relationship between local assessing officers and state tax commissions." Following are examples of such changes:

Recent legislation in the state of Washington requires the tax commission to establish standard forms and uniform procedures relating to assessment practice, as well as to call an annual meeting of the county assessors for instructional purposes. In keeping with this policy, the commission has prepared uniform assessment data cards with instructions for their use and is also preparing a working manual.

The Illinois Tax Commission has been active in the past year in preparing standard forms, holding state and regional instructional meetings, preparing and distributing assessors' manuals, and a report "which is one of the best ever issued by any tax commission."

In Minnesota and Colorado the commissions are required to visit one-half of the counties each year. The Minnesota Commission has also prepared a working manual for the local assessors.

The Wisconsin Tax Commission under CWA secured an appropriation of over $1,000,000 to install uniform assessment data records in all local assessment offices, and through its existing system of supervisors has remained in very close touch with local practice. The Tax Commission of Michigan has sponsored a WPA project to make a rural property survey, part of which will include the creation and adoption of uniform records.

The Tax Commission of Virginia and the Commissioner of Corporations and Taxation of Massachusetts call the local commissioners of revenue together once or twice a year for instructional meetings.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, January 18

Basing Insurance Rates on Fire Loss Records

Low fire loss records and excellence of fire-fighting equipment and methods are being rewarded in Texas cities by lowered fire insurance premiums. In this respect Texas is unique among the 48 states, according to Harold A. Stone, executive secretary of the New Orleans governmental research bureau. Though the Texas system has been in use for years and has markedly affected the policy-holders' pocketbooks few people outside of Texas, Mr. Stone points out, know about the system.

In all states other than Texas, writes Mr. Stone in the January issue of Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association, the National Board of Fire Underwriters rates cities without considering that low fire losses and improved fire defenses constitute proper reasons for lowering insurance costs. The Texas Fire Insurance Department establishes the key or base rate upon the city's ability to cope with fires.

Cities whose water supplies, standpipes, main pressures, alarm systems, etc., are below standard are charged for such deficiencies--two cents for a fire alarm system 40 per cent deficient; four cents for having wood shingle roofs on more than three-fourths of the buildings, etc. Adequacy of equipment and methods appear as percentage credits. The sum of the percentages is multiplied by the total charges and the result, subtracted from the charges, gives the rate.

If a city plans to make an improvement, the reduction it may expect in its key rate can be ascertained beforehand. During the past twelve months several towns building water supply systems with PWA funds were told how much their rates would be reduced before the construction was decided upon. Bridgeport, Texas, for example, reduced its rate from 90 to 50 cents in 1935, and Pittsburgh, Texas, by spending $100,000 for improvement of its water system, saves $7,000 a year in insurance premiums--a 7 per cent return on investment without giving any consideration to the advantages of a pure water supply.

The second unique feature of the Texas plan is consideration of the fire loss experience of a city in determining the size of the insurance premium. If losses are high, individual premiums on each risk in the town are increased, and if losses are low, the premiums are reduced. Dallas, for example, had a fire loss record slightly lower than normal during 1931, 1932 and 1933, which permitted a 3 per cent reduction in insurance premiums during 1934.

Citizens and officials of every city in the state know from the face of their insurance policies how nearly "normal" a premium they are paying, which, Mr. Stone comments, is an incentive for improvement.

JT. LIBRARY

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
350 East 58th St., Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, January 20

Ohio Creates Interstate Commission

Ohio, by recent action of its legislature, becomes the eighth state to set up permanent machinery for resolving problems of an interstate character. The new commission, composed of five members of the senate, five from the house of representatives and five executive appointees, will join representatives of the New Jersey and Pennsylvania permanent commissions and the New York legislative committee on interstate cooperation at the Regional Safety Conference to be held in New York City January 25 and 26.

Twenty-three states have, during the past twelve months, set up some sort of agency on interstate cooperation. These agencies maintain a clearing house in the Council of State Governments, of which Henry W. Toll is executive director. Of the twenty-three, eight are permanent commissions and fifteen are legislative committees composed of senate and house representatives only.

In commenting on the creation of an Ohio commission Mr. Toll said:

"Ohio occupies a central position. In many ways the state is a part of the eastern seaboard industrialized area. It is, of course, the fulcrum of the lower Great Lakes states; it is definitely tied in with the middle western states; and it has contact with a group of so-called border states. Ohio shares with Indiana the many problems raised by an extraordinary amount of trans-state vehicle traffic.

"Although the mechanism of interstate cooperation is more fully developed in the eastern states, the new Ohio commission doubtless will find occasion to establish contacts with west and south. Highway and motor vehicle legislation, interstate criminal law, and problems of taxation are some of the most pressing problems that await the consideration of the new commission.

"The focal situation of Ohio makes the establishment of a commission there of extreme importance, both for the state itself and for all the surrounding states."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, January 21

What Is a Public Works Official?

Officials heading public works departments in American cities with 10,000 or more population are appointed or elected from some branch of public service more often than not.

This was the finding of the Joint Secretariat of the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials, whose picture of the "average" public works official, derived from an inquiry about 200 of them, appears in the current issue of the Public Works Engineers' News Letter.

Appointments and elections from the ranks of existing city employees account for 89 public works heads, and were made from such offices as assistant city engineer, city engineer, councilmen, assistant superintendent of public works and building inspector. Thirty-three others, appointed or elected from the public service, prior to their appointments were engineers for state highway commissions, county engineers or surveyors, municipal engineers or city managers, engineers in forestry service, CWA or PWA officials, etc. Forty men who were in private work at the time they were called to public works positions list prior work as that of consulting engineer, railway engineer, contractor, salesman, railway engineer, insurance man, etc. Thirty gave no information as to previous positions.

Most frequently on the list was found the public works official with four years or more of college training. He was already in the employ of the city as assistant city engineer at the time of his appointment to head up the community's public works activities. He was selected by civil service procedures in only ten cases. He has been in office for five years, and carries the title of Superintendent of Public Works.

There is considerable variation from this "type," however. Although half of the 200 men have had four years or more of college, 13 have had three years, 13, two years, and 3, one year, while 71 have had no college training at all. The title of the official in charge of public works activities varies greatly. In the smaller cities--10,000 to 30,000--"city engineer" is a favored title, with "superintendent of public works" coming next. In cities of 30,000 to 100,000, "commissioner of public works" is the title occurring most frequently. The larger cities call these officials "director of public works" or "director of public works and engineering."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, January 22

Consolidation Pays

Los Angeles County, which last year consolidated its 46 townships into 24 units, has demonstrated that money can be saved by reducing the number and increasing the size of governmental units. Roger Jessup, member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, describes how the California county is now $100,000 ahead, in the current issue of The Tax Digest, magazine of the California Taxpayers' Association.

The Los Angeles County township consolidation program was put into effect in January, 1935, upon order of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The County Bureau of Efficiency, which drew up the details of the consolidation, estimated that $91,000 a year would be saved. Actually, however, savings during the first year have totaled more than $100,000. Expenditures for the first six months of 1934, before consolidation, amounted to $231,251.95. During the first six months of 1935 they were only $173,906.94--a difference of $57,345.01.

As proof that the saving is the result of true economy and not merely of retrenchment, County Supervisor Jessup explains that township justice courts and constables' offices are now operating more efficiently than before, even with increased loads.

"Consolidation of townships, counties, school districts and other governmental units to reduce sharply the total number of independent authorities has long been advocated by those who have searched for constructive ways of reducing the tax burden," comments Robert M. Paige, secretary of the Governmental Research Association. "It can usually be clearly demonstrated that governmental consolidations would save money, but, unfortunately, there have not been nearly enough actual consolidations to provide 'before and after' figures which will convince the sceptical. In Los Angeles County is a concrete example of what a consolidation program can accomplish. Undoubtedly township consolidation would yield similarly large dividends in many other counties in the country."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, January 23

Training for Municipal Administrators

The best municipal administrators are made--not born. They are made by training from the ground up, and the best ground is the city hall itself, where as apprentices they can learn the first principles of public administration. Before such a plan for developing an experienced group of administrators can be followed out, however, many present administrators and councilmen must revise their opinions.

This is the comment of the Committee on Training of the International City Managers' Association, which has just published its recommendations on training for municipal administration.

Responsibility for training competent public administrators, according to this committee, falls partly on institutions of higher education and partly on chief administrative officers. Specialized graduate training for this profession, following a four-year liberal background course, is the duty of colleges and universities; but training in service, equally as important, is the primary concern of municipal administrators, and depends on their support for its success.

The greatest bar to the development of a widespread apprenticeship program, says the committee, has been the lack of demand or opportunity. The supply of qualified and ambitious college graduates is practically unlimited, and some established administrators have expressed a willingness to engage them as apprentices. This expression of willingness to cooperate must be turned into action, which will include the education of councils and their communities to drop prejudices against out-of-town men for home-town jobs.

The committee recommends that a definite program be developed which will provide for sending at least a dozen apprentices into local government service every year. These apprentices might be attached to an office of general administration, such as the city manager's, or they might be employed by one of the staff agencies, such as finance or personnel; in many instances they might be rotated for varying periods in several departments. It is emphasized that systematic planning and constant attention and sympathetic interest of the administrator are all necessary if the apprentice is to gain a progressive and all-round experience.

After a year's probation, the apprentice should be "reappraised," for his qualifications to do administrative work, the committee advises. If he has failed to demonstrate talent for it, he should be directed into other channels without hesitation. If he has shown aptitude, he should be kept on as a salaried apprentice as long as is necessary--two to five years--until he can safely be given independent authority to perform duties of an administrative nature.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th St., Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, January 24

Tax collection - Evasion

Co-operation against Tax Evaders

Florida tax assessors, in a new spirit of cooperation, have taken steps further to restrain the tax evader. At its last annual meeting, the Florida Association of Tax Assessors approved a resolution calling for mutual exchange of information with their neighbor-states on the assessment and taxation of intangible personal property.

The purpose of the cooperation is to check on tax evaders who live most of the time in Florida but seek exemption from the payment of intangible taxes in that state, claiming citizenship or residence in some other state.

Under the terms of the resolution Florida assessors will now furnish to taxing officials of other states any "reasonable" information regarding residence and taxability of any Floridan who seeks exemption on the grounds stated. In return, they expect similar cooperation from officials of other states about residents who ask exemption on the claim of Florida citizenship.

"This move in the direction of mutual assistance is only one of many ways in which assessors can help one another on matters that extend across state boundaries," says Albert W. Noonan, technical director of the National Association of Assessing Officers. "It is in line with the cooperation recently subscribed to by the federal government in making federal income tax returns available for inspection by local and state tax authorities under the provision of the Costigan amendment.

"There is little question that the trend in recent years has been toward more cooperation among assessing and taxing officials, and away from the musty tradition of independence and isolation," he adds. "California offers a similar example. Here assessors are required by law to forward to other assessors in the state information they secure in their own jurisdictions. More of this cooperation is needed between the various local officers, between local and state officers, between the officers of the different states and the federal government. Regardless of the different taxation patterns existing in the various states, there is no reason for conflict or jealousy on the matter of exchanging information."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, January 25

Planning for the Small American City

Efforts of the federal government to stimulate construction of non-federal projects as aids to relieve unemployment have dramatically shown the need for American cities to set up long-range planning programs and budgets, says Russell Van Nest Black, planning consultant, in "Planning for the Small American City," a revision of which is published by Public Administration Service, Chicago, today.

"Those cities having well-developed plans and programs have been greatly benefited through speedy approval of sound local improvements," says Mr. Black, "and, in these instances, the federal government's program has been expedited. In the absence of plans and programs to support and justify project applications, many loans have been refused. Frequently, relatively unneedful local public works have been built. To considerable extent it has been necessary to divert available funds from non-federal to federal and regional improvements, more obviously feasible and more quickly to be gotten under way, but not always of greatest social need and services."

Mr. Black reports other far-reaching developments that have taken place during the two and a half years since the first edition of his study was published. In 1933 he wrote that several states were giving serious consideration to the possibility of state-wide plans. Today he is able to say that "all but two or three states are engaged in active planning, in most instances under officially created state planning boards." During this period states with city planning enabling legislation have increased from 35 to 38; 23 states have some form of county planning enabling legislation, while only 8 had it a few years ago; and there are 24 state laws making possible regional planning, where 6 existed before.

In Mr. Black's opinion, the small city has a special challenge of opportunity and responsibility in the future development of the country, and because of its possibilities for growth and its "comparative fluidity," is in a unique position to benefit from proper planning.

Mr. Black emphasizes that, although in one sense city plans have been thought of chiefly as those features that can be drawn on paper in the form of a map--streets, parks and public building sites--a true plan must also include studies of problems like traffic routing and control; it must be based on sound estimates of the probable character of the city's future growth, and must be supplemented by a carefully worked out capital improvement budget for the financing of the program over a period of years.

JT. LIBRARY JAN 25 1936

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th St., Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, January 27

Community Care of Unemployables

What is happening to the "unemployables" since the federal government has turned responsibility for their support back to states, counties, municipalities and "poor districts," is described in the February Midmonthly Survey. The article is based on a study made by Catherine M. Dunn for the American Public Welfare Association.

The study covers New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Alabama, in each of which states Miss Dunn spent one month, attempting to check up on what is actually happening to dependent families transferred to local care.

With the withdrawal of federal funds, the standards imposed under federal-state administration no longer hold, Miss Dunn found, and within most states the practices followed before the federal government took a hand are again in force. Communities appear to have different ideas as to who are the "unemployables." Some local authorities, for example, do not consider a person suffering from diabetes or heart disease incapacitated for manual labor. Some Alabama local relief authorities consider a family as having an employable member as soon as a child reaches his sixteenth birthday.

Transfer of care of the unemployables to local responsibility has, without exception, according to Miss Dunn, meant a sharp cut in family budgets already far below a "health and decency" standard.

In Philadelphia County, Penna., when the study was being made, federal funds still were available to carry 13,000 unemployable families at a cost of $20,000 a day. The local department of welfare has a total annual appropriation of $5,000 to work with.

In Indiana and Pennsylvania the township trustees as a rule do not pretend to provide for a family's needs, even in the matter of food They "give something" and expect the family to "forage" for the rest. One trustee reported an allowance of $4 a month for a family of five. In New Hampshire it is the general practice to allow

(MORE)

$1 a week per person, plus $1 or $2 for the family.

The whole question of supplementing inadequate family income out of public funds varies as widely in the local care of the unemployable as it has under the state emergency relief administration, according to Miss Dunn's report. In some communities any resources, however small, make the unemployable family ineligible for relief. Some New Hampshire counties require relief clients to sign an affidavit declaring themselves paupers.

Because they are cut off from supplementary assistance, and that given by law is so inadequate, those receiving old age pensions in Indiana are often in greater need than those who are on direct relief. In Pennsylvania the waiting list of known eligibles for various forms of public assistance runs into thousands. Available funds are spread very thin, but even in this situation supplementation is refused by some poor boards.

Aside from the lack of sufficient funds, it is a distressing fact, according to Miss Dunn, that many officials responsible for local poor relief are political appointees, under constant pressure to save money and to avoid any program calling for increased taxes. In many cases local relief administrators are untrained in social work, and often they have full-time occupations.

The local communities are reported as making every effort to prove a family "employable," thus throwing responsibility for their care on WPA. In some cases it was found that relief authorities discriminate among accepted applicants, basing decisions on considerations other than actual need. Thus it was found that in making mothers' allowances, the question of whether the mother is "deserving" or "decent" is often the first consideration--not her children's need.

Antiquated settlement laws crop up again in disputes over defining boundaries to allocate an applicant to his proper "poor board." In some communities settlement requirements definitely bar out many of those in need, as in New Hampshire towns, where an applicant must have paid seven consecutive years of poll taxes out of the last ten to be eligible for relief.

The obvious conclusion from Miss Dunn's survey, it is commented, is that archaic poor laws and agencies, too meager resources, confusion, petty politics, buck passing and lack of intelligent planning are all militating against proper care of the "unemployables" by local communities. States as well as local communities need to improve their administration of poor relief instead of slipping back into old pre-depression ways.

#

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Ill. Release: Tuesday, January 28

Annual Appraisal of Municipal Reports Management-Reporting

Citizens of Berkeley, Calif., Cincinnati, O. and Norfolk, Va. who read the annual reports prepared by their administrators in 1935 can take pride in knowing that they were reading the best literature of its kind. Reports of these three cities tie for first place with a rating of 95 on "general digestibility," according to Clarence E. Ridley, who as a University of Chicago professor makes the appraisal for the ninth successive year for The National Municipal Review.

In 1935 a total of 55 cities gave a formal account of their activities, exceeding the previous "high" of 47 established in 1934. As to quality, comments Mr. Ridley, the general average for all reports submitted during 1935 excels that of any previous year, twenty-four of them, or nearly one-half, rating above 70. Among the exceptionally high scorers were Two Rivers, Wis., with a rating of 93; Memphis, Tenn., 92; Dayton, O., 91; Auburn, Maine, 90; Albert Lea, Minn. and Austin, Tex., 89.

Other cities scoring 80 or above were: Dallas, Tex.; Piqua, O.; Stratford, Conn.; Pasadena, Calif.; Alameda, Calif.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Oregon City, Ore.; Kenosha, Wis.; Staunton, Va. Six cities that rated from 70 to 79 were: Bangor, Maine; Hackensack, N.J.; Mangum, Okla.; Belfast, Maine; San Mateo, Calif.; and Ironton, O. Thirty other cities were given "honorable mention." Grading is based on promptness of publication date, physical make-up, and content.

Mr. Ridley sees encouragement in comparing the average 1935 report with the average reports of earlier years. Since 1927, the minimum qualifying standard for a report to be included in the appraisal has been raised twice. Then it was 50, now it is 70. Yet more cities met this higher standard with their 1935 reports than in any previous year. Also comforting, says Mr. Ridley, is a growing tendency to make the reports brief. In 1927 the average length of the public report was 90 pages; in 1935 it was 56 pages. Promptness in issuing reports shows a reduction of three weeks in comparison with the figure for last year.

"In looking back over the past nine years," says Mr. Ridley, "I think we can conclude that public officials are becoming aware of the absolute necessity for keeping the public informed on governmental affairs, and while it is recognized that the annual report is by no means the only way of accomplishing this objective, it nevertheless is clear that there is a growing demand on the part of the people for public information."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, January 29

Defaulted Municipal Bonds, Inv. - Defaults

Cities have been more careful about paying their debts than has been supposed during the past few years, and what defaults there have been were not strictly depression phenomena.

These are the two significant facts developed by A.M. Hillhouse, research director of the Municipal Finance Officers' Association, from his recently completed check of municipal defaults in the hundred-year period ending with 1930.

Describing findings of his survey in the current quarterly issue of Municipal Finance, magazine of the Association, Mr. Hillhouse says that records of the past century show that both in number and amounts municipal defaults have always been negligible, and that actual losses to bondholders have been rare. Approximately 1,000 defaults are known to have occurred before the present depression. This sounds like too many, he adds, but when compared with the total number of municipalities, it is a small percentage.

The survey showed that some municipalities can't keep out of debt trouble even in the most prosperous years, due to local depression conditions or to special circumstances.

"This is strong evidence," Mr. Hillhouse comments, "for those who advocate that the Federal Municipal Debt Adjustment Act should become permanent. If year in and year out there are a few municipalities in debt difficulties, then they and their majority creditors should have open to them permanent court machinery for perfecting a fair and equitable settlement."

Cities, counties and other districts in every state except Maryland and New Hampshire are listed among the defaulters, on bonds which include waterworks and sewerage, improvement, special assessment, general and many other kinds.

The compilation should be especially useful to investors, bond houses and bond attorneys, Mr. Hillhouse points out. It should also be of value to municipalities, he says, for with such a list of past defaulters and the current lists from a reliable source, the municipal bond attorney, investor, and dealer invited to bid on bonds can readily establish that the city's record is clean, or if not, that it has not defaulted since the 1870's or 1890's.

"Municipalities have everything to gain by making access to past credit records easy," says Mr. Hillhouse, "for there is virtually little for which they need be ashamed. With the facts more readily available, misstatements, misconceptions, and gross exaggerations about municipal defaults and losses to creditors will be forestalled."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th St., Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, January 30

Government by Council-Manager

The 29th year since the council-manager plan of municipal government was inaugurated in Staunton, Va. finds 438 cities and 8 counties so governed in this country and 19 communities in foreign countries, according to a directory just published by the International City Managers' Association. A total of 21 cities and 2 counties adopted the plan in 1934 and 1935.

In this directory it is shown that:

Nearly one in every 5 cities of over 10,000 population in the United States is now operating under council-manager government. (Over 2,000 of the 6,251 cities with over a thousand people cannot adopt manager charters without special action of state legislatures.)

Michigan has the greatest number of council-manager cities--46.

Sixty of these 438 cities have been under the council-manager plan for 20 years. Texas has the most of these--nine.

In 27 years, only 21 cities have abandoned the plan. During the last five years there were 5 cities, one town and one village which abandoned it, out of a total of 55 referenda.

The council-manager plan is most popular in cities from 50,000 to 100,000, twenty-eight per cent of all cities in this population group operating under it. Twenty per cent of the cities in the 25,000 to 50,000 group, eighteen per cent of those over 100,000 and of those in the 10,000 to 25,000 population class, nine per cent of the cities from 2,500 to 10,000 and two per cent of those from 1,000 to 2,5000 have council-manager government. Seven towns and villages under 1,000 population have council-managers.

Cincinnati, O., a manager city since 1925, is the largest in the "big city" class under this form of government. Polk City, Fla., with a population of 222, is the smallest.

Municipalities adopting the plan in 1935 included ten with populations less than 10,000; one between 10,000 and 25,000; one over 50,000 and one over 100,000.

Of all the cities which have adopted the plan in the past six years, slightly over one-half had been operating under the mayor-council plan, about one-fourth under the commission plan, and the remainder under the town meeting or other form. Acceptance of the council-manager form of government in the past twenty years, it is commented, marks the decline of the commission plan. During the decade 1911-20, thirty-five per cent of all new charters approved in eleven home-rule states, where cities are free to adopt one of several forms of government, were of the council-manager type, while in the next decade, 1921-30, the percentage was seventy-one per cent.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
350 East 58th St., Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, January 31

The City Planner and Slum Clearance

Official restriction of immigration, which was further stopped by the world-wide depression, brought into bold relief the need for ridding cities of slums and blighted areas by which "any city worthy of the name" was being "gradually strangled," A. R. Clas, director of housing of the PWA, told members of the American City Planning Institute at their recent annual meeting in Washington.

"Until the lid was clamped down on unrestricted immigration," Mr. Clas said, "the degeneration of blighted areas was neither so apparent nor so ominous. As one class of inhabitants moved towards the periphery, a new wave of innocent immigrants surged in to provide rents for negligent landlords and taxes for cities which blithely ignored the symptoms of cancer in their delusions of unlimited expansion."

The area of "expected urbanization" of American cities, Mr. Clas explained, has grown much faster than the population increase could warrant. "Municipalities have suffered from an excess of pituitary glands caused by the absorption of too many half-baked subdivisions," he said. "The result is that they rattle about in their skins. Decay sets in near the heart, the business center, and soon that heart is surrounded by a rotten ring of slums and blighted areas."

Replanning of these areas to lift them from their state of "economic collapse" constitutes one of the most pressing jobs to be done by the planner, Mr. Clas said. To get the job done, he stressed the need for reexamination and revision of zoning laws. "Countless areas now exist which have degenerated from once high-class residential districts to tenement use," Mr. Clas pointed out. "These areas, adjacent to commercial or industrial sections, are zoned to permit an extention far in excess of any reasonable need." He recommends that they be studied as potential areas for low-cost housing because of their proximity to the working center, which makes transportation easy; and if they are functionally related to the plan of the community and its population and industrial trends, they should be so developed.

"There will be urgent need," Mr. Clas said in closing, "for more comprehensive planning, to provide that public housing developments are designed for greater permanency of land use and intelligent organization of our cities. The legal machinery for effective action is nearly completed. The sentiment for effective action is daily becoming more insistent. The city planner has an opportunity to function far more significantly than ever before."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th St., Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, February 1

Cities to Have Representative in Washington

Appointment of a permanent full-time respresentative in Washington, D.C. for the American Municipal Association will make it possible for 5,000 cities to carry problems involving cooperation with the federal government directly to the nation's capitol. The Washington representative, who assumes his duties today, is Earl D. Mallery, former city manager of Alliance, Nebraska, member of the Nebraska State Planning Board, and of the board of the Nebraska League of Municipalities.

The Association, headquarters of which are in Chicago, is the national federation of leagues of municipalities in 36 states. Members of the leagues are the 5,000 or more cities in those states. Through their national association they are enabled to exchange information on their common problems, and gain advice on all municipal matters.

Growing concern of cities in affairs of the federal government, due to events of the past three or four years which make necessary closer cooperation between the two levels of government, is the cause of appointing a permanent Washington representative for the Association, according to Clifford W. Ham, its executive director.

"One of the chief reasons why the federal relief programs have run into the many difficulties which they have encountered," says Mr. Ham, "is the lack of understanding and the lack of contact between the federal and local governments necessary to smooth operation. There will be increasing necessity for cooperation, since there are more and more situations demanding mutual understanding on the part of the federal and municipal governments. By having a spokesman for the cities on congressional ground and available to federal administrative departments, it should be possible to facilitate this cooperation."

The American Municipal Association, he explains, is concerned primarily with administrative business, and in no sense is it a lobbying organization.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois ST. LIBRARY
Release: Monday, February 3

Governors' Messages

Interstate cooperation against crime leads in public interest in the messages of the eight governors who opened the 1936 regular sessions of their legislatures during January. Social security, welfare and relief, changes in governmental administration, and highway safety were among other subjects uppermost in the governors' minds.

State Government, official magazine of the Council of State Governments, summarizes the sentiments on these topics from the messages delivered by the governors of Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Virginia.

Interstate Cooperation--Governor Lehman (New York): "The development of broader cooperation between New York and its sister states is essential to success in our war against crime. The field of interstate cooperation is fertile ground for improvement." He recommended the enactment of four crime statutes proposed by the Interstate Commission on Crime for uniform adoption by the states. Governor Hoffman (New Jersey) recommended another conference on crime similar to one held in 1935 and advocated consideration of further interstate compacts. Governor Johnston (South Carolina) also advocated interstate cooperation in the war on crime.

State Government Administration: Governor Chandler (Kentucky) asked for funds to make a comprehensive audit and survey of state offices. Governor Green (Rhode Island) asked the legislature to provide for calling a constitutional convention. Governor Peery (Virginia) recommended a personnel survey of state offices. Both Governor Curley (Massachusetts) and Governor Johnston (South Carolina) advocated biennial sessions of the legislature--these are two of the five states which still have annual legislative sessions--and Governor Curley proposed a unicameral legislature as well.

Motor Vehicle and Highway Safety: Governor Lehman (New York) suggested compulsory inspection of motor vehicles, a 50-mile speed limit on the highways, and a strict driver's license law. Governor Hoffman (New Jersey) advocated semi-annual vehicle inspection at publicly owned stations.

In seven of the eight states, governors commented on the necessity for consideration of social security measures and welfare problems. Governor Lehman suggested a moderate increase in the state alcoholic beverage tax as a means of financing state social security provisions.

The governors of New York, New Jersey, Mississippi, and Massachusetts expressed themselves as favoring advertising of their states and two of them asked their legislatures to appropriate funds for this purpose.

Louisiana's legislature will be the ninth to meet in regular session this year. It is scheduled to convene in May.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, February 4

The Social Security Act and Municipal Employees

Exclusion of state and federal employees from benefits under the unemployment compensation and old-age assistance features of the Social Security Act need not be a permanent situation, Miss Marietta Stevenson, assistant director of the American Public Welfare Association, points out in the current issue of Municipal Finance. Although the federal government does not impose taxes on state and local governments, "this does not prevent the state from levying taxes and providing benefits for public employees," says Miss Stevenson.

Most states so far have exempted public employees, but the Social Security Board has specifically said that "the state may go further and adopt a wider coverage than that provided in the federal act . . . . It may extend unemployment compensation to some or all the public employees of the state and its subdivisions which cannot be included in a federal tax measure. This is a matter of policy for the state to decide."

Some state unemployment compensation plans, however, do contain an elective feature such as the one included in the Washington law which reads: "Any employer of any person within the state not otherwise subject to this act shall become fully subject hereto upon filing by such employer with the Commission of his election to become fully subject hereto for not less than two calendar years, subject to written approval of such election by the Commission."

Alabama, New York and Massachusetts have included similar provisions in their unemployment compensation legislation.

"In most of the states which have been enacting unemployment compensation laws," Miss Stevenson comments, "public employees generally have not realized that they personally would be very much affected by provisions which were more or less optional to the state, and so they have not taken a position one way or another on this matter."

It is probable, she adds, that in the future public employees operating in many states through state leagues of municipalities will be much more alert to their interests in the matter of unemployment compensation and old-age benefits.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th St., Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, February 5

Municipal Markets

Municipal markets, "white elephants" in many cities, can be made self-supporting and even profitable, according to recent reports on two of them. The Benton Harbor, Mich., municipal fruit and vegetable market is described as doing a three-million dollar annual business by its city manager in Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association. The Department of Public Markets of New York City reports that within the administration of its present mayor, Fiorello LaGuardia, the city's markets have changed from inefficient and expensive undertakings into profitable investments.

Benton Harbor's is the largest cash-to-grower fruit market in the world, the project covering 11 acres not far from the city's business district. Out-of-town truckers arriving at the market pay $1 for the privilege of purchasing each load of produce. Their trucks are assigned to a loading platform, where they receive the fruits and vegetables bought from the growers, paying for them in cash. Differences of opinion between growers and buyers are settled by the market master or by state inspectors, who pass judgment on the quality and grade of produce offered.

The Benton Harbor market is administered by a board of five members, appointed by the mayor for five-year terms, with one member retiring each year. Although it is separate and distinct from the city government, all purchases are made through the city purchasing department, all money is handled through the city treasurer's office, receipts from market sales are turned in each day and deposited in the city's general fund, and all bills are paid by city vouchers.

Metropolitan New York, which daily receives nearly 3,000 carloads of perishable and semi-perishable goods and is the largest outlet for food producers in the country, had the poorest facilities for terminal food distribution of any major city in the country, up to January, 1934, according to the latest report of the Department of Public Markets, Weights and Measures. Retail merchants from the Bronx and the outlying sections of Brooklyn had to drive as far as 20 miles through dense traffic in order to get their daily supply of perishable foods.

There had been two terminal markets in use before this time--one in downtown Manhattan, and one in Brooklyn. In 1934 the Bronx Terminal Market, which had cost nearly $17,000,000 and had been used only as a warehouse, was given a paved square large enough to park 500 farmers' trucks. Seventy-five merchants' stores, a bank building and a restaurant building and retail market were constructed at an investment of an additional $1,500,000. Long before the construction was finished, each of the 75 stores had been leased for periods running from three to five years, and almost one-half of the 36 platform stalls within the market proper, which previously never had been rented, began to produce revenue for the city. Instead of operating costs of $142,000, which swallowed a revenue of $64,000--as in 1933--by May, 1936, a minimum gross revenue of $316,000, with an operating cost of $117,000, appears to be insured.

Creation of this market means not only an operating profit but a reduction of from $75 to $150 per carload on some 30,000 carloads of fruits and vegetables during the first year of distribution, the report estimates. This is accomplished by the readjustment of the railroad facilities and the extension of the city-owned piers in Harlem River at the market, which will entirely eliminate the cost of trucking foods through the city.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th St., Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, February 6

New York Governor Recommends Anti-Crime Measures

Speedy legislative action has followed the sixty recommendations aimed at the control of crime made by Governor Herbert H. Lehman in his special message to the New York legislature on January 7, the Police Chiefs' News Letter, bulletin of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, notes in its February issue. A number of bills embodying the governor's recommendations already have been introduced into the New York legislature; some have passed the senate; and others had been given a public hearing before the end of January.

The recommendations were divided into six classes--crime prevention; detection and apprehension; prosecution and the courts; institutional care; probation and parole; and interstate cooperation. Under measures to improve crime detection and apprehension of criminals the governor recommended:

1. Legislation allowing 30 counties over 50,000 population to consolidate all county, town, village and special police units into a single force "capable of coping with modern conditions."

2. An uncompensated commission on police training to coordinate the existing facilities maintained by municipalities and by the state; state requirement that all police recruits hereafter going into service of any city, county, town, or village be trained at local expense in approved schools now maintained or hereafter established by police departments.

3. A system of in-service training for police, to be formulated and approved by the State Department of Education.

4. Increase of 100 officers and men for state police force, especially to strengthen the police defense in rural areas and on the arterial highways.

5. Statewide dispatching of information on any felonious criminal not apprehended within five hours after the crime.

6. Extension of fingerprinting to include all misdemeanants and those charged with disorderly conduct, except violators of traffic regulations.

7. Tightening of law on carrying concealed weapons.

8. New section of the penal law to declare that any insurance company or private detective agency receiving property previously reported to the police as stolen cannot return it without police permission.

9. Creation of a State Department of Justice which can be given broad powers to cooperate with and assist the local District Attorneys. Transfer of the Division of State Police to the State Department of Justice. Establishment of a state bureau of investigation along the lines of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Creation of a central bureau of criminal identification.

Many of the suggestions made by the governor, the news letter notes, are the direct result of proposals made by the Commission on the Administration of Justice, the Law Revision Commission and the Governor's Conference on Crime held during the past year.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th St., Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, February 7

Variform Vehicle Rules

State Government, official magazine of the Council of State Governments, calls attention in its February issue to the new table of license laws issued by the American Automobile Association which makes evident the variety in vehicle rules.

According to this table of laws, exactly three-quarters of the states require operators' licenses. Two, however, exempt chauffeurs from this requirement, and some of the states which ask no operators' licenses for amateur drivers do exercise this control over chauffeurs.

Once a driver's license is secured, it lasts for varying periods in the different states. In 14 states it expires within a year. In 5 states it is valid for one to two years and in 4 states for two to three years. It lasts a lifetime in ten states. while in Nebraska it is good as long as the holder's legal residence is in the state. Licenses can be used four years in South Carolina and from four to five years in Virginia.

In Mississippi, Montana, Ohio, Oklahoma and Tennessee the law fixes no minimum age limit for driving, while in New Jersey college freshmen are barred from driving privileges because of the 17-year age minimum. The most frequent age for granting licenses is 16 years, the legal minimum in 22 states. In Kentucky, however, the 16-year old may drive only with his parents' consent. New York City police must have a subtly discriminating eye to distinguish between 18-year old New Yorkers without junior permits and 17-year old Jerseyites from across the river. In 10 other states, 14-year olds may drive. In the remaining 8 states adolescents may climb behind the wheel at 15 years.

An automobile owner must carry a certificate of title in 25 states, a certificate of ownership in Nevada, and a bill of sale in New Jersey. In 27 states it is permissible to transfer the license plates with the car when it changes owners.

The variety of these state laws indicates another field in which interstate cooperation is needed, according to Henry W. Toll, executive director of the Council of State Governments. The commissions on interstate cooperation established in nine of the states represent one of the most important means for bringing these varying laws into some generally acceptable uniformity.

New Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, February 8

Credit Unions for Government Employees

Credit unions, savings and lending agencies maintained by and for the benefit of wage earners, have quadrupled their numbers in the past five years, which is a tribute to their stability and special usefulness in times of depression, the Civil Service Assembly points out in a pamphlet issued today on the subject.

First established in this country in 1909, credit unions are based upon the principle that within any group of employees, residents of a community, or members of a parish or fraternal organization there are sufficient surplus funds to meet the credit needs of the group. There were only 190 of these associations a dozen years after the first one was set up; but by 1930 there were 1,000; and by January 1, 1936 there were well over 4,000, having over 800,000 members with total savings in excess of fifty million dollars. A national organization, The Credit Union National Association, was formed last year to take the place of the Credit Union National Extension Bureau which fathered the movement.

"Credit unions are particularly suited to groups of employees of federal, state and local governments," the pamphlet points out. By the end of 1935 it was conservatively estimated that there were 750 of them established for government groups--about 530 in the federal service, 75 in state services, and 145 among local government employees.

Examples of how the credit union plan has worked out are quoted in the pamphlet:

The Washington (D.C.) Uniformed Firemen's Credit Union in less than two years enrolled over half the firemen in the city and by the end of September, 1935, the 474 members had savings in excess of $22,000. The cumulative amount of loans during this period amounted to over $60,000.

Over 1,100 teachers in the Kansas City (Mo.) schools belong to the Teachers' Credit Union there which has been in operation for six years. They had saved $168,000 in shares up to August, 1935, and had loaned $670,000 to members "for useful purposes."

Chicago's Municipal Employees Credit Union was of special aid during the depression, when members obtained over $489,000 in loans to help carry them through a trying period of reduced and unpaid salaries. This Union had an increase of 935 members from 1930 to 1935 and an increase in savings in shares from $29,000 to $100,000.

The policemen's credit union in New Orleans not long ago carried its members through a payless period, arranging for credit with the butcher, the grocer and the milkman for its dependable debtors.

The Municipal Credit Union of New York City is doing a yearly business of two and a third million dollars. The St. Louis Policemen's Credit Union, which started in March, 1934, with 15 members and $27 in savings, by the end of September, 1935, had 1,284 members and over $106,000 in savings.

Losses on loans are few. In 1933 operations of 1800 credit unions reported only 158 associations losing anything. The total amount lost was less than 1/4 of 1 per cent of the total amount loaned by the entire 1,800 unions.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

P.A.C.H. LIBRARY

Release: Monday, February 10

FRA LIBRARY FEB 7 1936

RFC Bank Stock Revenue For Cities and States

Decision of the U.S. Supreme Court that RFC preferred bank stock is taxable will mean several millions of dollars of revenue to state and local governments, but exactly how many it is difficult to determine, says Albert W. Noonan, technical director of the National Association of Assessing Officers.

Tax laws of the 48 states vary considerably, Mr. Noonan points out. Seventeen states still levy a uniform rate on full valuation of the stock, 4 states a full rate on a low valuation, 16 states levy a special low rate on full valuation, 3 states tax intangibles according to their income, while the remaining 8 include the income from intangibles in all income received, and levy against such income. In addition, a few states specifically exempt from taxation any preferred bank stock.

The total stock holdings of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in national and state banks of the country is estimated at $900,000,000. Over two and a half million of this is in the banks of Maryland, whose Baltimore National Bank, assessed for RFC stock by the Maryland Tax Commission, provided the "test case." The U. S. Supreme Court upheld the decision of the Maryland Court of Appeals, which had ruled the stock taxable, although the RFC was a national agency. Previously the Circuit Court of Baltimore City had ruled it tax exempt.

As indications of the amount of revenue various cities expect to derive from this new source Mr. Noonan cites Cook County (Chicago) Illinois, which hopes to collect about $2,500,000 in 1934-35 taxes on the $75,000,000 worth of RFC stock owned there; Detroit, Mich., which anticipates the collection of around $200,000 on $17,000,000; and Louisville, Ky., which expects to get about $30,000.

"The Supreme Court's action on this case is welcome news to assessors," Mr. Noonan says. "Ever since last June, when the Maryland Court of Appeals had decided that the RFC stock was taxable, assessing officers have been in a quandary about how to treat such property, especially because of conflicting decisions of courts in Maine and Kentucky in addition to opinions submitted by many attorneys-general."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, February 11

Housing - Legislation

Low-Cost Housing at Low Cost to Tenants

If "low-cost housing" is to be interpreted as meaning housing at low cost to occupants, reduction of building costs is only half the battle. Some amendments to present federal housing legislation will have to be passed to make low rents possible after the houses have been built.

Coleman Woodbury, executive director of the National Association of Housing Officials, expresses this opinion in a bulletin issued to association members. In it is discussed the recent ruling of Comptroller General McCarl, which holds that rents on housing projects built with funds granted by NIRA over two years ago must be high enough to return their entire capital cost, with interest equal at least to the rate the United States pays on its bonded indebtedness. This means that capital grants by the federal government cannot be applied as subsidies to help lower rents, as PWA Housing Administrator Ickes had planned when estimating cost and operating expenses for the Techwood (Atlanta) housing project.

Last fall, when Housing Administrator Ickes inquired of Comptroller McCarl whether or not he could set rents on low cost housing projects "at such figure as would best accomplish the purpose of low-cost housing," Comptroller McCarl replied that "in the present state of the law" there existed no authority for the fixing of rentals at such low rates as would "apparently be giving away the property of the United States."

The opinion of the Comptroller General applies only to Techwood and nine other housing projects now planned, which, Mr. Woodbury comments, "is fortunate." It does not apply to the Housing Division's other projects financed out of funds appropriated by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, approved in April.

Mr. Woodbury points out that the NIRA, or the earlier act, is "none too specific on some points," among them the question of rents. One section of the Act authorizes the Administrator of PWA, under the direction of the President, to prepare a comprehensive program of public works, including "construction, reconstruction, alteration, or repair under public regulation or control of low-cost housing and slum-clearance projects." Another section authorizes the President through the Administrator, or through such other agencies as he may designate or create, (1) to construct, finance, or aid in the construction or financing of any public works project included in the program prepared pursuant to the first section; and (2) definitely authorizes grants "to States, municipalities, or other public bodies" undertaking projects included in the President's comprehensive program.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, February 12.

County-Municipal Administrative Accord

California is about to initiate a program designed to dispel the popular illusion that public administrators serving different levels of government are in competition with each other.

Through the initiative of the secretary of the League of California Municipalities the California County Supervisors' Association will appoint a permanent committee of three supervisors whose sole function, according to the league secretary, Richard Graves, is to "cooperate with the League of California Municipalities in the problems of local government."

This effort of California local authorities to prove untenable the position that "the officials of one level of government regard with hositlity and suspicion the officials of another level of government" is a "foundation stone upon which we may start to erect the solid structure of local government administration," according to Clifford W. Ham, executive director of the American Municipal Association, of which the California League is a member.

The federal official who complains that "his work is being interfered with or frustrated by state or local government; the administrator connected with state government who berates the federal government for its 'encroachment' upon his 'rights'; and the local government officer who believes that he is about to be swallowed by a voracious state government -- all these," says Mr. Ham, "present evidence of a particularly baffling type of confused thinking." The same individuals compose the communities with which each of these three administrators is concerned, Mr. Ham points out. "None of us can escape being a member of a community which has a local government; none can escape being the citizen of a state; we all are citizens of the United States. Why, then, should the administrators representing these three levels of government look upon each other as hostile aliens?"

People must be regarded as "indivisible human beings in whose service and for whose benefits these governments are established," says Mr. Ham. "We must think of ourselves and our administrative specialties as being only parts of a machinery by which the people as a whole desire to serve as best they can the individual human beings who compose the people."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, February 13

New York's New Free Ports

Federal sanction recently given New York City to operate the first foreign trade zone or "free port" in the United States opens numerous possibilities for direct federal-city contacts in a new field, according to Mrs. J. Kerwin Williams, of the staff of the United States Conference of Mayors, who writes in the February issue of Public Management.

The question now troubling state and municipal officials is whether the federal government has the right to withhold all goods in the zone from state and local taxation and police-power regulations.

According to federal rules, Mrs. Williams explains, goods may be unloaded in trade zones, left in storage there for a period not exceeding two years, and be broken up, repacked, assembled, distributed, sorted, graded, cleaned, mixed with foreign or domestic merchandise or otherwise manipulated--but not manufactured or exhibited, without being subject to the customs laws of the United States. Over a hundred years ago the United States Supreme Court decided that goods lose the character of imports and become subject to state and local taxation and regulation as soon as the original package is broken or the imported commodities are combined with other goods.

The effect of the Trade Zones Act, however, says Mrs. Williams, "is to make the entire trade zone an enlarged 'bonded warehouse' and to permit a much wider variety of manipulation." State and local officials are wondering whether the federal government can force states and localities to maintain a 'hands-off' policy while operations that actually constitute light manufacturing are carried on within their boundaries.

"The idea of a free port is new in the United States, though such facilities have long been utilized in Europe," Mrs. Williams comments. The Congressional enabling act approved by the president in 1934 makes it possible for each port of entry in the United States to have at least one foreign trade zone, which must meet the requirements laid down by the Foreign Trade Zones Boards, composed of the Secretaries of War, Commerce and the Treasury. These requirements are that it be "an isolated, enclosed and policed area...operated as a public utility by a corporation, in or adjacent to a port of entry, without resident population, furnished with the necessary facilities for lading and unlading, for storing goods, and for reshipping them by land and water; an area into which goods may be brought, stored, and subjected to certain manipulation operations." If they are reshipped to foreign points, the goods may leave the restricted trade zone without payment of duties and without the intervention of customs officials, except under certain conditions.

As the operator of the new free port, New York City will be obliged to place the facilities of the Staten Island area at the disposal of all who apply, to charge all users uniform rates, and to give them uniform treatment. It will have to provide light, power, warehousing, sewage disposal and other services. The city of New York will spend $4,600,000 on facilities for the free port.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, February 14

Occupations According to Cities

Doctors do not congregate in big cities. Neither do lawyers. But music teachers, musicians, artists, teachers of art, and writers do. On the other hand, there are fewer school teachers, in proportion to the total population, in metropolitan areas than in small cities.

These are among the conclusions reached by William F. Ogburn, University of Chicago sociology professor, whose analysis of occupations in cities of various sizes appears in the February issue of Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association. It is the second of the series of studies on social characteristics of cities. The first appeared in the January number.

Dr. Ogburn also finds that:

The ratio of persons employed in manufacturing to the total population does not vary greatly from a city of one size to another. Smaller cities seem to have a slightly larger per cent in manufacturing than the larger ones, but the figures still do not substantiate the idea that manufacturing is leaving the big cities for the smaller places in search of cheaper labor and land.

Cities over 300,000 in population have the most people engaged in clerical occupations: bookkeepers, accountants, copyists and stenographers.

The biggest cities--those over a million--do not have the most chauffeurs, teamsters, conductors, motormen and telephone operators, although communication and transportation would appear to require large numbers of these workers.

The largest cities have no greater proportion of people working at personal and domestic service than the villages have. Both classifications show 12.7 per cent, while cities of a size in between have about 13 per cent of their people working at these occupations.

The larger the city, the fewer the clergy and the fewer the number of people engaged in religious work. The biggest cities also have the smallest proportionate church memberships.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, February 15

Homestead Exemption

New laws or constitutional provisions for homestead tax exemptions should be studied with care before their adoption, says Carl H. Chatters, executive director of the Municipal Finance Officers' Association, in the current Municipal Finance News Letter. While proponents argue that such measures encourage home-owning, the opponents see them as a subsidy to the home-owner at the expense of the renter. Moreover, the loss of revenue to local governments must be made up by some other levy.

Mr. Chatters calls attention to a study of proposed tax exemptions made by the Oklahoma Tax Commission, based on an analysis in 31 counties of that state. A constitutional amendment already approved by voters authorizes the legislature to fix the amount of exemption. This amount may be increased but not diminished for twenty years. The state government will lose no revenue, since it has not levied a property tax for some time.

Taking the whole 31 counties, the Oklahoma Tax Commission found that a homestead exemption of $500 would reduce total assessed valuations by 6.4 per cent; a $1,000 exemption would reduce the rolls by 10.3 per cent; and with a $2,500 exemption the reduction would be 15.1 per cent. Complete exemption of all homesteads would cut total assessed valuations by 17.6 per cent. A study of individual counties shows that one of them would have a reduction of 23 per cent in assessed valuation even on a $1,500 exemption.

A survey made recently by the Kansas City Civic Research Institute for the state of Missouri, which last year defeated a homestead exemption proposal, indicates that Kansas City would probably see a reduction of around $1,750,000 to $2,000,000 in revenues if homesteads were exempt from taxes. Missouri cities in general would lose from 6 to 70 per cent of their revenues,the smaller cities losing the larger amounts. St. Louis, for example, with 67,162 taxable homes, would lose about 6 per cent, or $1,200,000 ,whereas Sedalia, a city of 2,927 taxable homes, would lose 70 per cent,

(MORE)

or $97,000. The state as a whole, including all governments, would lose approximately $14,000,000 in revenue, or about 14 per cent of the total amount of property tax collections.

The effect of the $5,000 homestead exemption law in Florida, which became operative with November, 1935 tax collections, has not yet been determined, since not enough time has elapsed for political units to check their revenue losses. Estimates indicate that they will run from 10 to 19 per cent.

Eight states now have homestead exemption provisions in their laws. Two of them--New Mexico and Oklahoma--passed the measures in 1935 in the form of constitutional amendments. Florida, Louisiana, Minnesota, West Virginia, Texas and Mississippi had such laws prior to 1935. In 1936 two other states--North Carolina and Utah--will hold referenda on similar amendments.

"Tax exemptions tend to confuse the struggle for equitable taxation. Their growth is alarming," comments Mr. Chatters. "War veterans have long been favored. Religious and educational institutions not only want government services without cost, but they keep highly valued and well located real estate off the tax rolls. Homestead exemptions are spreading. New industries ask local subsidies through freedom from taxation. To encourage building during the depression, some exemptions have been given home builders. In some cities buildings of state or national governments receive extensive services from city or county governments without just compensation. Then there will be found the large class who are exempt through political pull or legal subterfuge.

"When we were children in school and the writing on the blackboard became so overlapped and mixed up that we could not read it properly, we wiped the slate clean and started over fresh. Maybe it would be a good thing to wipe out all tax examptions and then make each class or group justify its special privileges."

P.A.C.H. FEB 17 1936
IIT LIBRARY
News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, February 17

When Cities Hire Engineers

When an industry wishes to fill a staff vacancy, it searches for the best man it can afford to employ. When a city needs an engineer, it too frequently narrows its field of applicants to those who can prove local residence. This archaic point of view, says Frank W. Herring, editor of the Public Works Engineers News Letter, official publication of the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials, must be discarded if cities are to get the best engineering services.

Although the spoils system of recruiting government personnel has been publicly discredited, appointment of "home-town boys for home-town jobs" still persists, Mr. Herring points out. This "parochialism" is "wrecking the administration of local government." It must be rooted out of personnel selection methods, he emphasizes, if we are to hope for the greatest advancement in the administration of public works activities, since it is "of little use for engineers to train in special problems of public works if they can get jobs only in their home cities."

In the public works field, Mr. Herring says, promising engineers must be considered eligible for engagement by a municipality anywhere in the United States. What the engineers of a given community might lose through the increased competition for local jobs, they would more than regain through the widened opportunities they would have for appointment in some other city.

There are hopeful signs that geographical restrictions on competence are being torn down, according to Mr. Herring. An increasing number of cities and states are omitting residence requirements from their civil service regulations. Some states have uniform standards of qualification for municipal positions, with qualified applicants eligible for appointment by any community in the state. Instances are increasing wherein city civil service commissions waive residence requirements in order to fill properly a job which requires special skill.

"It is to be hoped," Mr. Herring adds, "that we can look forward to the time when a young engineer can enter the public service in a small community, advance to a position of larger responsibility in a city of greater population, and climb the ladder at a rate dependent only upon his competence, with the whole country as his field of operation."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, February 18

Still a Crisis in Relief

"State funds for direct relief should be made available for local governments to administer, and transient aid must remain in the picture, if we are to preserve public health and safety," says Fred K. Hoehler, director of the American Public Welfare Association.

In the February issue of Public Management, Mr. Hoehler quotes results of a survey of 43 cities in 33 states made during the last months of 1935 as indicating this necessity.

A large middle western city, for example, reported: "The WPA work program got under way slowly. The local set-up is excellent but the entire quota for this community, if absorbed, will leave more cases than our resources can care for. There must also be a supplement to the earnings of large families."

Another city said: "At the present time, practically every community in this state has exhausted its budget for care of the poor and is entirely dependent on state funds. The legislature faces an almost impossible task of finding revenue to provide funds for unemployment relief. It is having difficulty in providing funds for statutory functions such as care of dependent children, care of the blind, old age pensions, etc."

From another city: "Closing intake for transients has resulted in increased panhandling, petty thievery, and hardships among the deserving as the winter develops."

Reports of tax limitations, deficits, and extra burdens on real estate leave nearly every municipality dependent on the state legislature for funds, Mr. Hoehler points out. "Too frequently legislatures have listened to the weary taxpayer, and adequate relief aid is refused. Where it has come on a temporary basis, as it has too often, it prevents good administration and planning, with the inevitable wastes of such emergency plans."

It is his opinion that "there will be need for millions to receive direct relief or starve." The federal government has a responsibility to prevent starvation, he says, and relief "should be on an adequate basis of grants-in-aid to states. The states in turn should make provision to assure sound local administration staffed with trained personnel."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, February 19

Training Prospective Public Administrators

Thirty college graduates are offered an opportunity to study the operation of the federal government at first hand through the National Institute of Public Affairs, which has announced its 1936 competition for scholarships for internship training in Washington.

The thirty interns, chosen after March 16, when application lists close, will report to the Institute's headquarters in Washington, D.C. in September of this year. From that time until June, 1937, they will undergo a variety of experiences planned to be practically useful, not only to those who wish to become administrators and leaders in public affairs, but also to those who will engage in private business and teaching of the social sciences.

By arrangement with the heads of a number of bureaus of the federal government they will work as unsalaried, full-time employees in various departments, thereby being enabled to observe many aspects of public affairs. Weekly round-table discussions with legislators, press correspondents, lobbyists, administrators, business men and educators will add to this knowledge. If the student wishes, he can take graduate courses in government, economics and similar subjects at American University in Washington. In order that these experiences may be guided and coordinated, the intern will have the individual supervision by the educational director of the Institute in his work with the government, in his participation in discussion groups and in his studies.

Started as an experiment in 1934-35, when two groups of 40 students each received three months of such training, the Institute is now on an annual basis.

Designed not to compete with existing education facilities, but to add to classroom study of politics and government, the Institute has as its chief object introducing prospective leaders in public affairs to the work of their careers. In principle, the plan is in line with the apprenticeship and in-service training programs advocated by professional groups of administrators such as the International City Managers' Association, the Civil Service Assembly and similar organizations.

All communications regarding internship appointments should be addressed to the Scholarship Committee, National Institute of Public Affairs, 400 Investment Bldg., Washington, D. C.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, February 20

Public Welfare in Neighboring Countries

Improvement in the administration of welfare activities through competent public agencies in Canada, Hawaii and Puerto Rico compares favorably with that being attained in the United States, according to the February Public Welfare News, bulletin of the American Public Welfare Association.

Canada, according to A.W. Laver, Toronto's Commissioner of Public Welfare, anticipates a material beneficial effect upon the employment situation through the operation of its unemployment and social insurance Act passed in 1935 by the Conservative Government At present, while the validity of these laws is being tested by the newly elected Liberal Government, the Canadian Federal Government is bearing a great part of the expenditure for relief at the petition of the provincial and local governments. By-products of unemployment are creating many new problems for Canadian public welfare officials and taxpayers, one of the most serious being the lack of employment for the country's youth. The Province of Ontario has attempted a remedy by extending the period of wardship during which children shall be maintained from 16 to 21 years of age Legal provisions has also been made to pay pensions to widowed or deserted mothers with one child under 16 years of age. Formerly this law applied only when there were two or more children.

Hawaii's welfare activities have emerged from the informal stage of native hospitality and mutual aid to the organized status of private charities and county welfare departments, according to Miss Nell Findley, executive secretary of the Social Service Bureau of Honolulu. The first public welfare work was established in 1919 with the enactment of a law which provided for county aid to mothers with dependent children. In some counties the service was supervised by public health nurses; in others, by volunteers. In 1925, however, the legislature made mandatory the amount of the appropriation allotted each county. Care of indigents was written into a law p passed in 1927, but no provisions were made for its administration. As a result one county may designate the Salvation Army to care for these dependents; another, the road supervisors. The most recent step in public welfare was the Old Age Pension law passed in 1933, which was amended last year to conform to the provisions of the U.S. Social Security Act.

A bill organizing a department of public welfare for Puerto Rico, where social work has been developing since 1924, will be presented to the Insular Legislature this month. If it is passed Puerto Rico will have a department providing for family welfare, child welfare, institutions, probation and parole, and medical and psychiatric social service. "With the impending discontinuance of direct relief by the Federal Government in June, and the non-extension of the Social Security Act to Puerto Rico, the establishment of a department of public welfare is a vital necessity," says Charlotte Leeper, of the department of social work training of the University of Puerto Rico.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, February 21

Traffic Safety in Council-Manager Cities

Education, enforcement and engineering--in this order of importance--are the three means that cities are using to promote traffic safety, according to a sampling survey of 25 council-manager cities made by the International City Managers' Association. Results of the survey, which appear in the February issue of Public Management, show that while six cities include all three points of attack in their campaigns, eight cities are concentrating on the educational phase, three are centering their efforts on stricter enforcement of all traffic laws, and one is emphasizing engineering methods.

City managers of these cities describe their methods as follows:

Berkeley, Cal. made a special drive through the police department to reduce fatalities on its San Pablo Avenue, which had held a 1934 record of 11 deaths. In 1935 this figure was reduced to 6. The reason given by the police department for the decrease is that Berkeley judges gave severe penalties to drunken drivers. In 1935 only one drunken driver was involved in a fatal accident.

The city manager of Cincinnati says that "strict enforcement will probably do more than any other one thing to reduce accidents," but the public must first be educated to see the need for strict enforcement. A reduction of 8 traffic fatalities during the past year he considered the result of more careful driving and lessened speed, brought about by education and enforcement.

In Pampa, Tex., 20 citizen traffic violation reporters turn in violations they observe and on the basis of this information a courteous letter is mailed to the offender which asks his future cooperation. If no attention is paid to this letter, the violator is brought into court. Efficient school boy patrols, education in the school rooms, and strict enforcement of all traffic laws, particularly in the school zones, has resulted in no school child being injured or killed in the past five years.

The village manager of Winnetka, Ill., attributes the decrease in number of accidents to the installation of automatic traffic signals after careful engineering study, greater publicity on the causes and results of traffic accidents, and the concentration of police efforts on those violations which are really contributory causes of accidents rather than minor infractions.

Bluefield, W.Va., concentrates on certain sections periodically. In one month a concerted drive was used on a heavily travelled street, with the result that there were no traffic accidents whatever on that street during the month.

A traffic school which anyone may attend but which requires attendance of traffic violators is used in Mason City, Iowa,and Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Cooperation of newspapers, police and the courts and extra vigilance, with redoubled fines for traffic violations,were given by several cities as factors contributing to successful reduction of traffic fatalities.

Of the 25 city managers replying to the questionnaire 10 reported fewer automobile accident deaths in 1935 than in 1934, 9 reported an increase in traffic deaths, and in 6 cities the death toll was the same for both years.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, February 22

Assessor Qualifications

A composite picture of the average assessing officer--his age, education, training, time in office and other characteristics--as drawn by the National Association of Assessing Officers from information gathered recently from 50 of them shows that:

The average assessor is a male person 48 years of age. If employed by a county, he has been elected to office. If employed by the city, he has been appointed by the local legislative body. If he holds his office through election, his term is two years. If appointed he has no fixed term but is subject to removal at the will of the person or body making the appointment. In either event, he has served in office for about 8.2 years. He was graduated from high school and went to college for two years, but does not have any degree. He held no public position before becoming an assessor and his prior experience was obtained largely in the real estate field as a dealer or building contractor. He was a resident of the community at the time of his election or appointment.

There is no way of comparing this "average" assessor with an "ideal" one, according to the Association, because "the standards of such an ideal assessor still remain to be authoritatively established." Whether or not it would be desirable at the present time to attempt to establish such standards is considered debatable, as so many phases of the personnel problem are still in a state of transition.

Inasmuch as his average age is 48 years and the time in office 8.2 years, it is indicated that the average assessor spends the largest portion of his productive years in private business, waiting until near the end of his career before seeking this position. "If additional information confirms this indication," says the survey, "it constitutes a rather serious reflection on present personnel policy, in view of the now generally admitted importance of the assessment function."

Analysis of the fields in which assessors had obtained prior experience showed that of the elected officials, 7 had been in occupations directly concerned with some phase of assessment work at the time of their election; 7 others had been in real estate, trading and appraising building construction, banking, law or insurance--experience which has some bearing on assessment functions; and 5 had been mercantile salesmen, druggists, school teachers, shipping clerks, time-keepers, decorators--occupations of little use in assessing.

Only 50 of 250 assessors sent the Association's questionnaire answered it, which, it is added, is proof of the "wall of isolation which these officials have traditionally erected about themselves and their work" and an evidence of need to develop a greater degree of cooperation by interested agencies such as tax commissions, state leagues and the National Association of Assessing Officers.

P.A. LIBRARY FEB 21 1936

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, February 24

City Managers Appoint Career Service Committee

Ways and means of improving the quality of local government employees through selection and training will be studied by a permanent committee of the International City Managers' Association, Hollis R. Thompson, city manager of Berkeley, Calif., and president of the association, announced today.

Called the Committee on Career Service, the investigators have as their goal the creation of "a genuine municipal career service throughout the country." One objective of the study is the clarification of the special personnel problems of local governments and an analysis of obstacles to the establishment of a career service, as the Commission of Inquiry on Better Government Personnel has done for government in general.

Subjects included in the study are: preparatory education for municipal administration; training while in service; restriction of jobs to local residents; state-wide retirement systems for municipal employees, and for administrators in particular; standards for the appointment of department heads; and salary standards.

University professors and experts in civil service, as well as city managers, have been asked to serve on the committee. R. M. Dorton, city manager of Long Beach, Calif., is chairman. Other members include Louis Brownlow, director of Public Administration Clearing House; Charles E. Merriam, chairman of the department of political science of the University of Chicago; John M. Gaus, professor of political science, University of Wisconsin; Luther Gulick, director, National Institute of Public Administration; Clifford W. Ham, executive director, American Municipal Association; C. A. Harrell, city manager of Binghamton, N. Y.; F. R. Buechner, city manager of Piqua, O.; Neville Miller, mayor of Louisville, Ky.; William E. Mosher, dean of the School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University; Dr. Leonard D. White, United States Civil Service Commission; and G. Lyle Belsley, director, Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada.

Four of the members of this committee were also members of the Committee on Training of the International City Managers' Association which recently issued the pamphlet, "Training for Municipal Administration."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, February 25

New Hope for Housing - Federal aid

A permanent, coordinated housing program may yet emerge from the present session of Congress. At least assurance of Administration support as given in the recent conference between President Roosevelt, treasury officials and Senator Wagner offers such a hope, says the secretariat of the National Association of Housing Officials in a bulletin to members.

Although figures on future appropriations, grants and loans for housing can only be surmised, it is pointed out that the following conclusions may be reached:

1. A broad program including both public housing and assistance to private enterprise will be continued.

2. The need for some government subsidy is recognized.

3. Decentralization of planning, building and management functions in the public program will be stressed.

Two identical bills to correct weaknesses in the present legislation under which the PWA Housing Division finds it difficult to work have been introduced into the House of Representatives, the bulletin reports. They provide for:

Preservation of the civil rights of persons residing on any real property acquired by the federal government for low-cost housing or slum-clearance projects; that is, that they shall remain citizens of their cities, with voting and other privileges, even though living on federal property.

Authorization of the FERAdministrator of Public Works to enter into an agreement to pay any state or political subdivision requesting it fixed sums in lieu of taxes on housing or slum-clearance projects. These payments are to be based upon the cost of the public services supplied to the projects, but are to take into consideration the benefits derived by the state or subdivision. The sums cannot exceed in any year 5 per cent of the annual gross rentals of the project, or the amount of real property taxes last levied. These payments, as well as other expenditures for operation and maintenance of low-cost housing or slum-clearance, may be made either out of funds available especially for them or out of receipts derived from their operation.

Authorization of the FERAdministrator of Public Works to fix the rents of any slum-clearance or low-cost housing project, in order to bring them within the means of the families in the community unable to pay enough rent to induce private enterprise to supply adequate, safe and sanitary housing. These rental rates do not necessarily have to provide for full repayment of the funds expended in connection with the project.

Authorization of the FERAdministrator of Public Works to sell at private sale, or to lease, any low-cost housing or slum-clearance project to any public body authorized to engage in housing activities, whenever he finds it to the public interest to do so. He would also have permission to set the price.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, February 26

Crime detection - Fingerprinting

Universal Fingerprinting

Universal fingerprinting may not be attaining the importance of a nationwide drive for its adoption, but more and more are isolated local instances of its value being proved, according to the U. S. Municipal News, official publication of the United States Conference of Mayors.

A survey made by the Los Angeles Board of Education, says the News, showed that 268 non-teaching employees had criminal records ranging from vagrancy to kidnaping. Hereafter, all employees, including board members, teachers, non-certified personnel, are to be fingerprinted and photographed. The records thus made will be checked with those on file at the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington.

Berkeley, California, the News also reports, has officially designated the week of April 20-25 as "Universal Fingerprint Registration Week." During that week an attempt will be made to educate the city's residents of all ages to the public safety value of voluntary fingerprinting. The cooperation of service clubs, civic bodies, parent-teachers' associations, lodges, and churches will be sought to make the educational program as effective as possible. Fingerprint stations will be set up in firehouses, at municipal playgrounds, and at other public places, so that registration may be made easy.

By an agreement between the taxicab companies of Richmond, Virginia and the insurance companies carrying insurance on their drivers, regulations are soon to be adopted, it is reported, requiring the fingerprinting of all drivers. At the same time the previous employment records of the drivers will be scrutinized; their physical condition (particularly eyesight) will be examined; and the vehicles they drive will be periodically inspected.

Several of the large hotels in New York City are fingerprinting their entire personnel as a result of emphasis which has recently been placed in New York state on the need and value of universal identification.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, February 27

Birth of a Political Party

New political parties seeking to enter competition in the 1936 elections will encounter a wide variety of state laws governing their legal baptism, according to State Government, magazine of the Council of State Governments, which in its March issue prints a table of laws for getting parties on state ballots.

Some states welcome even the smallest and newest group with open arms, while other states bar the ballot to all parties except those of proved strength. The primary election provides the principal method of nominating candidates, and in order to get on the primary ballot in a majority of the states, the party must have polled a specified vote in the preceding general election. The vote required is, in some states, as high as 30 per cent of the entire vote. In a few states all parties, irrespective of their voting strength at previous elections, participate in current ones. In Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Mexico there are no primary elections, and in Utah only officers of certain cities are nominated at the primaries. In a number of states, Ohio, for example, a party's name is automatically removed from the ballot if at any time it polls fewer than the votes specified.

In 7 states new political parties desiring to hold primary elections may submit a petition to the Secretary of State signed by a specified number of qualified electors. In California, a party may be recognized by inspection of the registration statements of the voters. If upon examination of the statement the Secretary of State finds that a number of electors equal to 1 per cent of the entire vote of the state in the preceding general election desires to affiliate with the party, it is entitled to a place on the ballot.

In 28 states independent candidates and parties which are too small to hold state-wide primaries may secure positions on the ballot by presenting a petition of nomination signed by a specified number of qualified voters, the number of signatures ranging from 12,000 in New York to 2 in Virginia. Laws covering these petitions have requirements other than those governing the number of signatures, such as the addresses and qualifications of the candidates, and usually some statement of policy similar to a platform must be given.

Conventions and caucuses may be held by the smaller parties in 14 states. They take the place of the primary in Utah, Rhode Island and New Mexico. In New Mexico no regulations of the convention are specified, but in most other states a certain number of qualified voters must participate in such a convention in order to have nominations recognized on the election ballot, and a certificate of nomination signed by the officers of the new party must be presented to the secretary of state.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, February 28

Clackamas County Demonstrates Planning

Clackamas County, Oregon, with a population of 45,000 scattered over an area of approximately 2,000 square miles, believes in looking ahead as fast and as far as possible. According to Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials, it is "Exhibit A" in the demonstration of what an active county planning agency can do.

In May, 1935, the County Court created the Clackamas County Planning Board. Up to December, 1935, the County received total allotments of $1,893,469 in federal and state funds for planned projects, which, with a contribution of three-quarters of a million dollars voted by the inhabitants themselves, has resulted in progress many years ahead of normal development.

When the Clackamas County Planning Board presented a report to the Third Pacific Northwest Regional Planning Conference held at Spokane, Washington, recently, (Feb. 13-15) these were some of the accomplishments listed:

A constructive, organized road program involving projects totalling nearly $900,000 was established under the provision that all highway construction must be approved by the planning board before it is authorized by the county court. In this connection a county-wide traffic survey, the only one in the state, was made with relief labor. Nearly 30 miles of farm-to-market roads were selected for improvement with oil-rock, costing the county $50,000 once, but saving $40,000 in annual maintenance expenditures.

Plans for 13 PWA projects, including a new courthouse, city hall, and work on nine public schools, costs totalling $1,300,000, which the people voted to finance by bonds.

Plans for 16 WPA projects, costs totalling half a million dollars, including stream measurements, National Youth projects, parks and a county-wide library program.

Land settlement and reforestation studies looking toward best use of land for the support of residents of the county. Investigation of new types of industry which might be brought in.

An apprentice school has been established for the county and school boards of the three towns in the county have been requested to appropriate money to pay instructors, who will train young people for various vocations.

Work on flood control, testing of farm lands, a survey of underground water reserves for irrigation purposes, drainage projects and a mineral resources survey are among future items on the long-term plan of the Clackamas board, which already has compiled a dozen maps showing basic information on these matters. Close cooperation between the Oregon State Planning Board and this local planning board has done much to speed up the various county projects, the Clackamas County Planning Board reports. One important result has been the employment of nearly all relief workers, as well as many non-relief employables.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, February 29

Constitutional Law

When the Supreme Court Said "No!"

Three hundred and nine times has the Supreme Court of the United States failed to agree with the highest courts of the states on the constitutionality of certain state laws, according to a compilation made by J. P. Radigan, of the Library of Congress, which appears in the March issue of State Government, magazine of the Council of State Governments.

Almost one-third of the total number--102 state acts--have been tripped up on the Constitutional clause reading: "The Congress shall have power...to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several states and with the Indian tribes;" and on the related limitation of state power to levy import and export duties.

Ninety-two of these "casualties" resulted from violation of the Fourteenth amendment to the Constitution, which says: "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

States have found that their third major stumbling block is the contract clause of Article I of the Constitution: "No state...shall pass any...law impairing the obligation of contracts." Fifty-nine times has the U. S. Supreme court reversed decisions of state supreme courts on the interpretation of this clause.

There have been 57 "miscellaneous" cases of state laws not meeting the test of constitutionality.

Pennsylvania, with 23 unconstitutional acts, heads the list of states which have met difference of judicial opinion in Washington. Arkansas is second, with 17 reversals, and Louisiana, third, with 16. Both Georgia and Kentucky have had 14 laws judged invalid. Eight state supreme courts have managed to avoid reversals on points of constitutionality: Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wyoming.

C. H. LIBRARY FEB 29 1936

--THIS IS THE FIRST OF SIX RELEASES--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, March 2

Protection Against Worthless Securities

Forty-seven of the 48 states now offer the investor some protection against securities of doubtful value. During the past three years 31 state legislatures have completed this "blue sky" safeguard, according to the current issue of State Government, magazine of the Council of State Governments. Nevada is the one state which does not regulate the sale of securities in any way.

"Blue sky" laws fall into two classes: fraud acts and regulatory acts. Fraud acts provide only that the authorities shall investigate securities already being sold, and, by administrative order or court injunction, prohibit the further sale of issues discovered to be fraudulent, or suspected of being so. Regulatory acts empower the state regulating body to require that dealers be registered or licensed before they can offer securities for sale, or to demand approval of the securities themselves before the issue goes on sale, or include both provisions.

The compilation of laws shown in State Government indicates that only 4 states of the 47--Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and New York--use the fraud act. Connecticut, Maine, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island "assume that honest men will not swindle the public, and depend upon dealer license laws alone." Four other states--Idaho, New Mexico, Tennessee and Wyoming--demand registration of the securities, but not the dealers. The remainder of the states use both provisions. Sixteen states permit registration of certain classes of securities by notification only. Sale is permissible as soon as securities are registered.

In the 47 states government bonds are exempt from regulation, and certain other types of securities are also exempt because they change hands in particular kinds of transactions, such as executors' or guardians' sales. Most of the states having regulatory laws also have fraud provisions allowed for the use of the injunction in n preventing or remedying fraud.

The administering agent or agency of the "blue sky" law may be the secretary of state, as is the case in eight states, the attorney general, the superintendent of banks, a securities commission or commissioner, the auditor, or the public securities commission.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

--THIS IS THE SECOND OF SIX RELEASES--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, March 3

Legislatures Making Governmental Improvements Possible

Opportunities for marked improvement in the administration of state and local government are offered in legislation being considered by state legislatures now in session, according to Robert M. Paige, secretary of the Governmental Research Association.

Ten states are holding either regular or special legislative sessions. They are: Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Virginia. Ohio has adjourned its special session and Maryland is scheduled to convene March 14.

Among bills introduced or passed are the following:

Kentucky lawmakers are considering a proposal for a constitutional amendment which would permit the consolidation of any or all governmental bodies, offices, agencies and institutions, or their abolishment, and the enlargement, modification and redistribution of powers and duties of county and municipal officers. The City of Louisville is especially interested in this bill, since it would make possible the setting up of a consolidated government for the metropolitan area.

Massachusetts has bills pending to reduce the number of political subdivisions, to abolish county governments, to establish a unicameral legislature, and to provide for biennial instead of annual sessions of the legislature. Another pending proposal would create a metropolitan government for Boston and its 40-odd satellite cities and towns.

Illinois legislators are voting on bills providing for the permanent registration of voters in Cook County (Chicago) and in eight other communities, to protect against election frauds and to economize on expenditures for election records. These bills have passed the House and are now before the Senate.

New York's legislature is considering optional forms of government for its counties under which offices and governmental functions would be abolished or consolidated with others in the interest of economy and efficiency. The Assembly has already passed a bill eliminating primary elections in districts where there are no contests, by which New York City will save $400,000 a year and other communities will make substantial savings.

New Jersey lawmakers are studying bills to provide for a unified and comprehensive system of state financial administration, and to revise completely municipal and county budget systems. Other bills introduced would provide for the government of counties by a county council and county manager, and would place all municipalities in first class counties under permanent registration.

Ohio passed a bill creating a Commission on Interstate Cooperation which will work out compacts on various problems with other states in the region.

Rhode Island's legislature has authorized a vote of the people on March 10 to decide on the calling of a convention to revise the state constitution.

Virginia's House of Representatives has passed a bill to create a Commission on Interstate Cooperation and a proposal has been introduced to set up an Advisory Legislative Council to work with the governor on suggested legislation.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

--THIS IS THE THIRD OF SIX RELEASES--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, March 4

1000 Years of Council-Manager Government

One thousand years of experience with the council-manager form of government are represented in the tenure records of 25 per cent of the members of the International City Managers' Association, who, according to the current City Managers' News Letter, have served their cities ten years or more. A number of the 451 active managers now in service have followed the profession for fifteen to eighteen years.

The record is considered gratifying, as it has been barely 20 years since the first few cities set up this form of governmental administration which puts an appointive technician at the head of municipal affairs instead of an elected politician.

Recent analysis of the city manager as made by a member of the International City Managers' Association staff shows that the manager and his job vary from city to city.

In most small cities--those under 15,000--the manager must assume immediate direction of many administrative functions. He sometimes holds as many as five positions, acting as finance officer, city engineer, water-works superintendent, electric plant manager and secretary of the planning commission. In the larger cities, especially those over 100,000, the duties of the manager are confined to the broader questions of administration.

While two out of three city managers have attended college, only one was graduated, it was found. Three-fourths of these managers had held governmental positions, generally a public administrative post, at some time prior to becoming city manager, and public service was the predominant occupation for 42 per cent of them before they entered the profession. Over half of them came directly from some public position, one in five from private engineering, and one in four from the professions and business.

The average length of service for all managers is slightly under six years. Seventy-three city managers are serving in their second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth or seventh city. The annual turnover in the profession is about 15 per cent, but approximately one-half the managers who left their positions in the last two years have been appointed to federal, state, county or city positions of an administrative nature.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

--THIS IS THE FOURTH OF SIX RELEASES--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, March 5

City planning - Chicago

"Serial Rebuilding" to Prevent Slums

Serial reconstruction of dilapidated buildings, following a neighborhood plan, is advocated by the Metropolitan Housing Council of Chicago, as a means of avoiding reduction of property to a slum level. Under this plan, the worst buildings of a neighborhood are gradually replaced with new ones, the process covering "not one or five years, but many years." Thus, the use of a prophylactic may obviate the need for applying severe therapeutics.

"There is no reason why an old neighborhood should be a less sound investment than a new subdivision, if the old area is in process of soundly planned, serial rebuilding," says Miss Elizabeth Wood, the Housing Council's director, in the second annual report of that agency.

"It must be a part of the comprehensive city plan," she adds. "It must be based on thorough knowledge of such things as possible sources of employment of inhabitants, trends of population and transportation, as well as study of the financial structure of the neighborhood itself."

When directed by a competent planning commission, the report points out, the neighborhood plan may induce constructive municipal attention, such as recommendations for the vacation of unessential streets and alleys, to secure protection against nuisances, or to secure land for parks, playgrounds or other community facilities. Also it might force owners of commercial or industrial properties to make improvements which would greatly enhance all property values of the neighborhood.

Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials, strongly supports the Housing Council's point of view as expressed in the following quotation from its report:

"A long-term housing program must concern itself with more than the areas that have already reached the status of slums. It must concern itself with the forces that brought these slums into existence. It is not sensible to regard as one's only job the replacement of slums with good buildings, while one allows the causative factors to continue merrily at work creating new slums. A program must concern itself with the not-yet-slum areas, and even the land plan of the new subdivision, because both may have in them the factors which will result ultimately in slums."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, March 6

Civil Service in the States

Michigan, making a survey of its state employment system with an eye to installing civil service, will follow the example of ten states in the country if it decides upon adoption, according to G. Lyle Belsley, executive director of the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada.

The states now having state civil service laws include: California, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Kansas. Kansas, however, has not appropriated funds for its civil service commission since 1919, three years after adoption of the system.

New York's law is the oldest; it was passed in 1883 and made a part of the state constitution in 1894. Massachusetts' law was passed in 1884. Maryland's law provides a merit system administered by one man instead of by the usual five or six-man commission. California's Civil Service Act, most recently adopted, was approved in 1933 and as a constitutional amendment went into effect in 1934.

In addition to the states which have civil service laws, the federal government, about a dozen counties, and more than three hundred cities operate under merit system provisions.

The current study of civil service systems that is being made by the Michigan governor's commission may culminate in the drafting of a model merit system law. According to reports, says Mr. Belsley, "public hearings held thus far over the state show an overwhelming sentiment in favor of the merit system. Citizens and voters are represented at these hearings, so that the people as well as the political scientists may be considered as expressing this opinion."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, March 7

City-County Coordinated Purchasing

Coordinated purchasing is paying Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Ohio, not only financial profits, but those incident to a greater cooperation between two levels of government.

The plan began in 1931, according to Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association, when purchasing agents of the city of Cincinnati, Hamilton County and the board of education formed the Coordinated Purchasing Committee of Hamilton County. Since that time they have met almost every week to discuss their needed supplies, and the field of joint purchases has been expanded to include many items. Recently purchasing agents of the University of Cincinnati, a municipally supported institution, and the Cincinnati Public Library joined the committee.

As the coordinated purchasing system has developed, these details have become a part of the procedure: In cases where articles are used by all the governmental units and specifications can be agreed upon, vendors are requested to submit bids on the combined requirements. Specifications for major commodities are standardized. Bid forms and price inquiry forms have been reduced to a single standard for all the units, to eliminate possible misunderstandings with vendors. All departments make advance estimates of their needs, so that purchases of a year's supply can be made at one time. Uniform contracting dates have been adopted.

With the recent addition of the university and the library purchasing agents as members of the committee, a special study was undertaken to investigate items now being purchased separately, with a view to improving specifications so that as many articles as possible might be included among those bought by the joint method. A survey of the lubricating oils used by the county, for example, has resulted in a reduction in the number of oil items from eight to four and in improving specifications.

Coordinated purchasing has resulted not only in dollars and cents economies; the most important contribution this experiment has made has been to the spirit of inter-governmental cooperation, according to Harry H. Fite, secretary of the Hamilton County Purchasing Committee. One result of the initial successes of the experiment was the formation of a Committee on Coordination and Cooperation in Hamilton County, composed of the city manager of Cincinnati, the presidents of the county board and the board of education, and the director of the Cincinnati Bureau of Governmental Research. This committee acts as a clearing house for problems of regional scope.

--THIS IS THE LAST OF SIX RELEASES--

...T. LIBRARY

--THIS IS THE FIRST OF SIX RELEASES--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

Release: Monday, March 9

Unappreciated Municipal Sinning

Carrying on routine budgetary public work -- paving repair, refuse collection, street cleaning, even hospital operation -- under relief auspices constitutes a grave municipal sin, and nullifies "the effort of the nation to create extra jobs through the expenditure of public funds," according to an editorial appearing in the current issue of the Public Works Engineers' News Letter, published jointly by the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials.

"Not a single good word," says Frank W. Herring, executive secretary of the joint secretariat of the associations and the author of the editorial, can be said in defense of this practice of "shifting a normal city operation onto the financial books of the federal government." In extenuation of the situation, "it can only be assumed that the consequences of such municipal sinning are not adequately appreciated."

Millions of employables from the relief rolls could be put to work "creating additions to the community's plant or rehabilitating outworn or outmoded public facilities--projects that are badly needed but beyond the financial capacity of most cities," Mr. Herring finds. Thus would new jobs be created, and the stated purpose of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 be carried out, at least in part.

"Carrying on normal, routine city functions with relief workers does not create a single extra job," Mr. Herring emphasizes. "Such activities would have to be carried on, financial embarrassment or not. Charging them to the nation at large merely removes from the city budget some expenditures that rightfully belong there. Pauperizing the public service by the progressive encroachment of the relief work system into public business is hardly a desirable goal."

"City fathers," Mr. Herring says, "zealous in resisting interferences of state or federal governments in municipal administration, must realize that administrative supervision is the inevitable consequence of financial support. Home rule and municipal mendicancy are utterly inconsistent."

Mr. Herring realizes that unemployment must be checked, and that it is a responsibility that cannot be shirked, "but let us beware," he warns, "of turning the business of government into a relief-work enterprise."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, March 10

City Managers Name Cooperating Committees

In order to maintain a close liaison with organizations operating in fields allied to its own the International City Managers' Association has appointed twelve of its members to cooperate with four national engineering and management agencies. The appointments were announced by Hollis R. Thompson, president of the city managers' association, and city manager of Berkeley, California.

W. M. Rich, of Hackensack, N. J., I. C. Brower, New Rochelle, N. Y., and Paul A. Volcker, Teaneck, N. J., will represent the Association on the National Management Council, which is interested in coordinating the activities sponsored by various organizations in the fild of management. In the Council are included the Taylor Society, the Society of Industrial Engineers, and the American Management Association.

J. H. Ames, of Ames, Ia., and P. E. Jarman, Westmount, Quebec, will become members of the National Research Council, which is composed of over 200 representatives of national technical and scientific societies, and which promotes research and its practical applications in many fields.

In the American Standards Association, which brings together manufacturers, technical specialists, representatives of the government and the general public to develop and formulate nationally acceptable standards in industrial fields, the managers will have two representatives--William A. Holt of New London, Conn., and Harold W. Baker, of Rochester, N. Y.

The National Committee on Municipal Accounting, formed within the past two years for the purpose of improving local government accounting methods, will have as city manager representatives H. C. Laughlin, Kenosha, Wis., R. E. Clement, Norman, Okla., L. G. Howell, Ironton, O., J. F. McCrary, Bristol, Va., and W. H. Shea, Stratford, Conn.

The contact maintained by the International City Managers' Association with these other associations is considered an important one, says Clarence E. Ridley, executive director of the Association. Through it the managers learn, for example, of new methods perfected in management, or of the procedures that are becoming antiquated in accounting. Although a city manager is not supposed to be an accountant, an engineer, a police chief, all in one, he is called upon to advise department heads in all phases of municipal administration. For this reason, Mr. Ridley, points out, it is necessary for him to be acquainted with the latest developments in all of them.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, March 11

Interstate Commissions "Meet for Business"

Matters of interstate concern ranging from parks and milk regulation to transient care and crime control are bringing into regional meetings the newly developed agencies known as Interstate Commissions on Cooperation, organized to promote the settlement of common problems of contiguous states.

According to State Government, magazine of the Council of State Governments, three such conferences have been held since the first of this year, and two others have been scheduled for the month of March.

The New York Commission on Interstate Cooperation called a regional conference on highway safety in New York City in January. Delegates from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont attended. Eighteen problems of highway safety were discussed at the meeting, including reciprocal reporting of arrests and convictions, penalties for illegal licensing, law enforcement, uniform directional signals, speed limitation, examination of drivers, and compulsory inspection of motor vehicles.

New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania Commissions held a joint hearing in New York City early in February on the interstate aspects of milk control. Representatives of producers, middle-men and consumers met with the officials of the Governors' Committee on Interstate Milk Relations which acts for seven states in the region. The purpose of this conference was to discuss the milk control problem in the New York region and to determine whether the Council of State Governments and the various commissions on cooperation might be useful in bringing about its solution.

As a result of these conferences several bills have been introduced and supported in current legislative sessions of the states involved,

Interstate commissions also participated in the Interstate Park Conference and the Interstate-International-World-wide Conservation Conference, both of which took place in New York City in February.

The Interstate Conference on Relief of Transients in Trenton, N.J., March 6-7, brought together from all states east of the Mississippi heads of state public welfare departments and emergency relief organizations and representatives of the federal government. New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania arranged this conference also. Later in March an Interstate Stream Pollution and Water Supply Conference is scheduled in Philadelphia, called by these three commissions.

Ten states have thus far established permanent commissions on interstate cooperation, Ohio and South Carolina having only recently passed laws creating them. Bills to create such agencies have been introduced in Kentucky, Mississippi and Rhode Island, and have passed both houses of the Virginia legislature.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
Public Administration Clearing House
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday March 12

Multiformity in Assessment Practices

Lack of uniformity in assigning responsibility for the assessment function is given attention in a current bulletin of the National Association of Assessing Officers, which shows that at least eight different plans, with variations, are followed in the 48 states.

At present, according to the survey, 15 states have county assessors exclusively. Most of these are western states. Thirteen states, eight of which are in the east, are entirely on the township and city assessor plan. Nine states have the county plan as a base, but permit municipalities to devise their own assessment machinery.

Delaware, Maryland and Nebraska are organized on a county basis, except for the cities of Wilmington, Baltimore and Lincoln, which have special plans.

Two counties in Washington and 24 in Missouri have township and city assessors, while other counties in these states employ county assessors.

Four different kinds of agencies exist in Illinois. In 83 counties, there are township assessors; in 17 counties, the county treasurer is ex-officio the county assessor; a board of review makes original assessments in one county, while Cook County (Chicago) has a single assessor.

Indiana has both county and township assessors throughout the state, with overlapping jurisdictions.

South Carolina is divided into numerous small tax districts for assessment purposes.

In Pennsylvania, both county and city assessing officers are engaged under five different arrangements, with considerable duplication of work.

"It is doubtful if there is another phase of governmental administration in which practice is so lacking in uniformity," comments Albert W. Noonan, technical director of the National Association of Assessing Officers. In addition to the foregoing, wide variations also exist, he says, in tax dates, exemption statutes, selection, jurisdiction and compensation of asessing officers, legal basis of value, reviewing agencies, and so on. "While there are many reasons for believing that strict uniformity may not be so desirable as it may first appear," Mr. Noonan says, "there is little question that a much greater degree of uniformity would improve tax administration."

----THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, March 13

Students to Get Realistic View of Government

Sixty students from colleges in each of the 48 states are being invited, through the presidents of their respective institutions, to attend a series of conferences with federal government officials in Washington March 29 to April 4. The one-week institute, according to the National Institute of Government Affairs, which is sponsoring it, is designed to allow the students to "follow a realistic investigation of current official activities." Yale and Princeton each will send a group of ten men to the week's institute.

The students will visit sessions of Congress, the Supreme Court, and will attend meetings of congressional committees. They also will meet with leading governmental officials, legislators, press correspondents, and lobbyists. Each evening round-table discussions will be conducted during which observations and experiences of the group will be discussed.

Otis T. Wingo, executive secretary of the National Institute of Public Affairs, has been named director of the week's institute. He will be assisted by a staff of five authorities on government problems and public administration.

"It is remarkable how few college students get a realistic picture of the actual operations of their government and political forces," said Mr. Wingo, in commenting on the forthcoming institute. "Almost all of their impressions in this field are usually obtained from text-books, not necessarily up-to-date, and from hearsay. At the request of the colleges themselves, whose faculties perhaps best realize this weakness in their students' education, the institute of government will be held each year in Washington. The contact with reality, the actual observation of the operation of forms of government and their participants cannot but enrich the experience of each student who attends."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

--THIS IS THE LAST OF SIX RELEASES--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, March 14

Making the Municipal Service Professional

How far those who hold positions in the municipal service are from the professional status of the physician, lawyer or engineer, is revealed in a study made by Lyman S. Moore, of the International City Managers' Association, reported upon in the March issue of Public Management.* Mr. Moore decides, from reports of the various public service groups--municipal accounting officers, police and fire chiefs, city managers and others--that "most of the groups have a long road to travel" before attaining complete professionalization, although standards of education, training and experience are coming to be "definitely recognized by the more farsighted members in each profession and by the local governments which are responsible for appointments."

In order to be classed as truly professional, a group of public officials must establish standards of competence for entrance and promotion in the service, it must have a deep feeling of obligation to serve the public honestly and well, and it must have a code of ethical conduct with disbarment as penalty for violation.

Before drawing his conclusions Mr. Moore examined the activities of 11 professional organizations of municipal administrators, some of which have existed for thirty years or more.

He found that school superintendents as a group have developed marked professional characteristics during the last half century, and now represent the highest degree of professionalization of any of the groups. The city managers, over forty years younger as an organization, have made noticeable strides toward developing the characteristics of a profession, especially with respect to training. Public librarians are distinguished among the professional groups for having the longest average tenure and the lowest percentage of turnover, or job-change. Welfare directors, having experienced competition between the pressure for more rigorous professional standards on the one hand and pressure for political control on the other, show a wide variation in the degree of professionalization.

Mr. Moore sees the professionalization of public officials as "one major hope for the success of democracy." He points out that as governments assume new functions that require increased technical and administrative knowledge and skill, the vote of the people must be reserved more and more for major questions of policy and less and less for administrative decisions.

---

*This is the type of material that will appear in THE MUNICIPAL YEAR BOOK 1936, to be issued by the International City Managers' Association about April 10.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

MAR 18 1936

Release: Monday, March 16

F.P.A. LIBRARY

Low-Cost Housing and the Supreme Court

Dismissal by the U.S. Supreme Court of the Louisville housing case involving the right of the federal government to condemn land for low-cost housing sites is not such a blow to housing as might be thought, Coleman Woodbury, executive director of the National Association of Housing Officials, says in a bulletin to association members. Although the "sudden withdrawal from this case at such a late date has been bad for housing, for the time being, at least," in Mr. Woodbury's opinion there are two or three reasons for encouragement.

The New York Court of Errors and Appeals, highest court of the state, now has under consideration the Muller case, involving the right of instrumentalities of the state to condemn land for housing. A decision is expected any day, and defenders of the statute are reported as hopeful of the outcome.

The day after the federal case was withdrawn at the request of federal attorneys, the District of Columbia Alley Dwelling Authority obtained a verdict in the first condemnation suit brought to obtain land for its program. Although the constitutionality of condemnation was not in question, the award granted was "very favorable," the jury determining the price of $3,180 for property needed, on which a value of $5,280 was claimed.

There is reason to believe, Mr. Woodbury says, "that state courts will uphold the right of local authorities to condemn land for housing sites; also, the dismissal of the Louisville case does not exclude the federal government from testing the validity of the power in question when action is based on other housing cases."

The reason given by the Department of Justice for withdrawal of the case--that funds originally allocated for the development in question had been used for other projects--seems "insufficient" for dismissal, Mr. Woodbury comments, "for the simple reason that the question of using eminent domain will be involved in any future plans for low-rent housing." It is his opinion that another reason for dismissal lay in the fact that New Deal attorneys may have foreseen a more favorable outcome for housing if other cases, involving the same principles upon which the Louisville case rested, were decided first."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, March 17

Engineers Are Planners

Municipal engineers must recognize the importance of planning; in some communities all kinds of planning are required of them, Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials, points out in the current issue of the Public Works Engineers' News Letter.

In some cities this recognition has already come about, comments Mr. Blucher. Philadelphia makes city planning a function of the public works department. The city engineer of Wichita, Kans., is also the secretary of the city planning commissions of that community.

"Making the city engineer the head of the planning agency is an ideal situation for many communities," he says. "Even if there were enough expert planners in the country, many a community in the present state of planning could not afford to have a planning specialist on its staff. A wide-awake, intelligent and open-minded city engineer can, however, very satisfactorily and very adequately carry on the planning activities of the community with some planning advice which he may obtain from time to time."

In the field of state planning, Mr. Blucher adds, it is even more essential that there be a close relationship between planning and public works. "This is recognized almost without exception by state commissioners of highways. There is a growing realization that highways projected into submarginal areas which are destined to be removed from cultivation, or highways projected to schools which are to be abandoned in a school reorganization plan, are wasteful."

The interest should not be one-sided, however, Mr. Blucher says. It is even more important for the planning agencies to keep in touch with the public works officials. Planners look to the future. They develop long-time plans, but in doing so they may forget some of the practical difficulties to be encountered. Although the planners may "hitch their wagon to a star," it is important that they keep their feet on the ground.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, March 18

Tax Ferrets

Tax ferrets are expensive. Their powers can easily be misused. All the information on tax evaders they can discover should be discoverable by the assessor himself.

These conclusions are implied in a recent report of the Oklahoma Tax Commission, which made a study of results obtained from the tax ferret system as employed in that state to prevent property tax evasion. The study disclosed that regular assessors placed $937,976,346 worth of property on the tax rolls, and the ferrets accounted for an additional $20,000,000 or one forty-seventh of that amount. But the work of the assessors was done for $365,902, and the fees paid to the ferrets amounted to nearly $60,000--one-sixth the cost of the regular department.

While the report did not attempt to make out a case either for or against the employment of tax ferrets, it did point out that the job was a "political plum of the first magnitude." It also indicated the undesirable possibility, discovered in investigations in other states as well, of collusion between ferret, assessor, and taxpayer, with the splitting of fees as the result.

Iowa and Kentucky are among other states still employing this method of uncovering undeclared property. In Kentucky the system survives in its most developed form. A "revenue agent" is appointed by the state tax commission to do the "ferreting." His compensation is limited to 75 per cent of the 20 per cent penalty on taxes restored to the tax rolls.

"The necessity for employment of tax ferrets should not exist," comments Albert W. Noonan, technical director of the National Association of Assessing Officers. "The work done by ferrets should be done by the regularly elected or appointed assessors and their assistants, or by the state tax commission."

In far too many places, however, Mr. Noonan adds, "the honest portion of the tax-paying public does not yet seem to appreciate the necessity of demanding competent assessors, selected on a basis of merit alone. This usually means spending more money to get the job done right, but the money spent would be more than repaid, not only in larger tax revenues, but in a much higher degree of equality in the apportionment of the tax burden."

It should be the assessor's function, he points out, to discover all the taxable property under his jurisdiction, list it accurately and appraise it competently. "This no assessor can do, however, unless he has sufficient ability, sufficient powers and sufficient assistance in the way of equipment and personnel."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, March 19

Family Life in Cities

Big cities have been responsible for the most changes in the pattern of family life; rural districts have been least responsible for giving it new habits and organization, William F. Ogburn, University of Chicago sociologist, concludes in reporting upon the social characteristics of cities for Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association.

The size of the family does not vary much from a city in one population group to another: 3.2 members is the average. Farm households, on the other hand, average over 4 persons apiece. In both cases these figures include relatives and lodgers living at the house. About one-third of the families in large cities consist of two persons; on farms only one-fourth of the families are this small.

There are fewer children in large cities. In the big centers nearly two-thirds of all families have no children under 10 years of age. On farms this percentage drops to 57.

The large cities tend to discourage marriage and the formation of families, Dr. Ogburn finds. In explaining this tendency he says that possibly a wife is not so useful to a man in large cities, since he can purchase "home-cooked" food, and pay for mending, sewing and laundering. On farms only 8 per cent of the young women under thirty, and only 14 per cent of the young men under 35, are single.

Although the birth rate is lower and there are, proportionately, fewer young children in big cities, the proportion of married women working is no larger there than in small cities. For the large cities families with more than one gainful worker are about twice as numerous as families with a married woman employed. More members of the family seem to work in the larger cities than in the smaller ones.

The larger number of apartment hotels, the higher per capita annual sales in eating places, and the greater hotel accommodations in big cities, as compared with those of successively decreasing population size, are taken as indications of the loss of the family function in large places. Less ownership of homes--36 per cent in cities of the two largest population groups as against 61 per cent in the agricultural villages--is also taken as a factor working toward family disintegration.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, March 20

Modernizing Police Organization

Modernizing the organization of a police department is almost as important as supplying the force with improved firearms and squad cars. This is the advice given municipalities carrying on police surveys with the intent of increasing economy and efficiency.

Westchester County, to the north of New York City, has just had such an "examination" as a part of its local government survey made by the Institute of Public Administration, according to the Police Chiefs' News Letter, bulletin of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

This county, which includes, among others, the cities of Mt. Vernon, New Rochelle, White Plains and Yonkers, has 45 police forces, in addition to a state police detachment. There are 2.5 policemen for every thousand inhabitants, an average surpassed in only six cities of more than 400,000 population. In almost half of the county, however, it was found that the county and local governments had "virtually abdicated" the field of police protection, turning over the task to state police. The limited numbers of the state police are said not to permit adequate protection for the rural district. In addition, it was found that over one-third of the town and village forces have no local lock-ups. Other deficiencies include the failure of some departments to take the fingerprints of felons;the failure of others to send copies of fingerprints to the state identification bureau as required by law; some forces have no police call-boxes for communicating with district stations or headquarters and others have no system of recall signals for communicating with men on patrol or other duty in the open. There is no county radio system.

If the recommendations made in the report are carried out, Westchester County will be divided into three natural population areas--city, suburban and rural. In the first area each of the four cities--Yonkers, White Plains, New Rochelle and Mt. Vernon-- will retain its present police powers. In the suburban area, the police power of the villages will be shifted to the county and to a newly created suburban township which will replace all of the towns and special districts. In the rural area another single township government will be created, to take over all police powers of existing towns and special districts. Instead of 45 local police forces there will be only seven--the county parkway police, four city forces, and one force each for the suburban and rural townships. This reorganization is designed to pave the way for establishing orderly relationships among the various units of the county, so that better police defenses can be developed.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, March 21

Excelsior Springs Goes into Municipal Business

Excelsior Springs, Missouri, has taken its place among American cities which are engaging in unique enterprises to augment municipal revenues derived from normal sources. Backed by permissive state legislation, and the consent of the state supreme court, a PWA grant of $647,000, and $110,000 in bonds bought by its own citizens, the city has purchased from individual owners the important mineral wells and springs in the community, and is constructing a "hall of waters," which combines health, recreation, industrial, business and civic functions.

The building called the "Hall of Waters" will be the center of the unit, which is to be administered by The Mineral Water System, a separate entity of the city government established for control and operation of the Springs. This building will house the offices of all city officials and the chamber of commerce.

"Health and recreational features," according to Public Management, monthly magazine of the International City Managers' Association, which describes the project, "will be the dispensing of the ten principal mineral waters directly from pipes connecting with the sources of supply, a mineral water swimming pool, and physiotherapy departments for both men and women. Industrial and business uses will include a bottling plant capable of producing 40,000 bottles of water daily."

The money earned by the System will be deposited by the city treasurer in a special account, on which checks can be drawn only by authorization of the governing committee of three, which serves without compensation.

Although Excelsior Springs is choosing uncommon business to enter, other cities in the country have municipally owned enterprises of various sorts besides the usual waterworks and sewage disposal systems. Milwaukee, for example, is in 54 different kinds of business, including motion pictures and the printing of election forms. Columbus, O., operates a municipal stone quarry, and Oklahoma City, Okla. manufactures asphalt in its own plant.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, March 23

A. G. H.
LIBRARY MAR 23 1936

Finance Officers to Meet

As evidence of the current interest in and need for the greater appreciation of municipal accounting and finance, municipal finance officers of eight central states open a two-day meeting this morning at the Jayhawk Hotel, Topeka, Kansas. The eight states that will send delegates are: Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota. Invitations have also been extended to the finance officers of adjacent cities in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming. The meeting is being sponsored by the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of the United States and Canada, of which G. A. Lascelles, executive secretary of the treasury department of Toronto, is president, and Carl H. Chatters is executive director. The headquarters of the association are in Chicago.

The principal speakers and their subjects are as follows:

Joseph W. Nicholson, purchasing agent of Milwaukee, Wis., "Municipal Purchasing;"

A. R. Jones, state accountant, Topeka, Kans., "Cash Basis, Uniform Accounting, Tax Limitations and Uniform Budgets;"

Carl H. Chatters, "The Program of the Municipal Finance Officers' Association;"

F. G. Baker, city auditor, Oklahoma City, Okla., "The Auditing of Municipal Accounts;"

Arthur C. Meyers, budget director of St. Louis, Mo., "Municipal Debt Administration;"

Myron Atkinson, city auditor, Bismarck, N. D.,"Preparing the Budget Estimates;"

R. F. Agard, city auditor, Topeka, "Municipal Reports;"

V. L. Morrison, comptroller, Kansas Emergency Relief Commission, "The Internal Audit of Receipts and Disbursements;"

G. A. Lascelles, "A Challenge to Finance Officers;"

Dean Van Ness, commissioner of finance, Topeka, and Theodore H. Berg, city auditor, Lincoln, Neb., "A Pay-As-You-Go Policy for Local Governments;" and

George P. Ellis, C.P.A., Chicago, "The Essentials of Municipal Accounting."

In addition to this meeting there will be a meeting of the Kansas Licensed Municipal Public Accountants called by A. R. Jones, Kansas State Accountant.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, March 24

Kreml to Director Traffic Safety Training Program

A thirty-three-year-old police lieutenant, college graduate, bachelor of laws, and an expert in the organization and administration of traffic safety training bureaus, will direct the expenditure of a $15,000 fund granted to the International Association of Chiefs of Police by the automotive industry for the expansion of the safety training of police traffic personnel. He is Lieutenant Franklin M. Kreml, organizer and director of the bureau of accident prevention of the Evanston (Ill.) Police Department. This unit has won for the city of Evanston the National Traffic Safety Contest for 1932, 1933, and 1935, and the First Aid Championship in 1934. Lieutenant Kreml is now on leave of absence from Evanston, directing the Public Safety Institute at Purdue University.

Lieutenant Kreml's appointment was made recently in Chicago at a meeting of officers of the police chiefs headed by Andrew J. Kavanaugh, association president and director of public safety of Miami, Fla.

The police chiefs' program emphasizes six major phases of urban traffic safety training: assistance to local chiefs in setting up accident prevention bureaus as separate units in police departments; cooperation with the Harvard University Bureau for Street Traffic Research in establishing extension or correspondence courses in traffic safety; cooperation with the National Safety Council in improving the reporting of traffic accidents; cooperation with state leagues of municipalities and their constituent cities in improving police training programs operated by the leagues and cities; establishing, in connection with its traffic safety staff, a clearing house for information for police chiefs throughout the country; and the addition to the Police Chiefs' News Letter, official monthly publication of the police chiefs' association, of a section devoted to traffic safety information and control techniques.

This extended effort to reduce traffic accidents and to improve traffic safety methods, of which the police chiefs' program is a part, is being participated in by more than a dozen national organizations.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, March 25

Personnel. Public - Legis - Ky

Kentucky Provides for Merit System

Through the recent enactment of its reorganization bill Kentucky becomes the eleventh state to provide for the merit system of public personnel administration, and the first state to recognize the need for this "aid to good government" since 1920, according to G. Lyle Belsley, executive director of the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada. Although Kentucky's reorganization act became effective immediately upon its passage March 8, it has been provided that the present governmental organization may remain intact until July 1, 1936.

The Kentucky law provides that the Division of Personnel Efficiency, included in the Department of Finance, shall pass upon the qualifications of all applicants for positions on the state payroll except those of executives, teachers in state schools, and secretaries. Lists of applicants so qualifying will be given to the various department heads of the state government, from which lists appointments will be made. Of particular interest to those interested in the extension of the merit system, Mr. Belsley points out, is the provision that the director of the Division of Personnel Efficiency must himself be technically qualified.

Although sixteen years have elapsed since the last state, Maryland, enacted legislation setting up the merit system of public personnel administration, several states have made partial provision for it within the past few years. Pennsylvania requires that all employees of state liquor stores be selected by competitive examination; New Hampshire gives competitive tests for two state departments, the unemployment compensation division of the State Bureau of Labor and the State Motor Vehicle Department; Louisiana passed a so-called civil service law, but the law set up a civil service commission which is conceded to be merely a politically administered personnel agency; and Minnesota provided that its budget commissioner should also be the director of personnel, although his functions as such are limited to a classification of positions and the development of salary standardization plans.

"The action of Kentucky", says Mr. Belsley, "is concrete evidence of the widespread interest one encounters everywhere in the merit system of public personnel administration. The growth in the number and complexities of governmental activities has brought the civil service question into bold relief. The coming years will undoubtedly see other states bringing to some legislative conclusion this important matter of providing sound personnel practices in government."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, March 26

Traffic Signals
vs Accident Prevention

Simple Methods of Improving Traffic Safety

"Pedestrian killed; driver injured; car wrecked; went through a stop signal."

Inquiry reveals the fact, however, that it was not the driver's fault, because the stop signal was obscured by the branch of a tree.

This may be headline reporting of a purely fictional event, but it could happen in almost every city in the country. Snipping off the offending branch is just one of the many simple steps which city engineers may take to improve traffic control signals, thus reducing possibility of car damage if not loss of life, says Burton W. Marsh, of Washington, D. C., writing in the 1936 Public Works Engineers' Yearbook, published jointly by the International Association of Public Works Officials and the American Society of Municipal Engineers.

Mr. Marsh lists many details under "First Engineering Steps to Improve the Traffic Situation." Improvement of "stop" and "go" signals is only one, but he offers extended advice even on such an elementary subject. He recommends these things:

1. Remove branches which obscure signal faces.
2. Clean, recondition and repaint signals.
3. Add signal faces where needed.
4. Improve timing of signals.
5. Plan for "tying-together" the operation of signals where warranted.
6. Recommend traffic-actuated signals where warranted.
7. Set up a plan for proper maintenance of signal controllers.
8. Alter signal operation to provide more adequately for pedestrians.

"Unfortunately," says Mr. Marsh, "all too little attention is given to pedestrian needs at intersections. Not only are signal faces missing directly ahead of the pedestrian path, but the operation of the signals discourages complete pedestrian obedience. Several methods of helping pedestrians have been found practical. Short cycles help greatly. The installation of "walk" lenses and their proper use is highly recommended. Where traffic-actuated control is used, pedestrian push buttons are frequently warranted."

Simple suggestions these, but, says Mr. Marsh, "steps that engineers can take which would be a valuable service to their communities, and a credit to their administration."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, March 27

Social Security Program Requires Competent Personnel

In order to accomplish the welfare purposes of the social security program and maintain governmental efficiency, officials of state and local governments must recognize the need for staffing public welfare agencies with professionally competent personnel. This warning is sounded in the current issue of Public Welfare News, official publication of the American Public Welfare Association, which finds that in some states and localities "there is no clear understanding of just what the job entails." Unless public welfare agencies have staff members that are qualified by education and experience "to undertake this important task, the new public assistance provisions of the Social Security Act will, unfortunately, amount to little more than an extension of poor relief."

Public Welfare News reports that "the federal government is recognizing the importance of the work to be done by obtaining the best personnel available for federal positions. The U. S. Children's Bureau and the Social Security Board are working closely with the Civil Service Commission to this end, setting a very good example to the state governments by their adherence to the spirit as well as the letter of the merit system in recruiting their own personnel. "Since the Social Security Act specifically requires that state plans provide certain methods of administration as are found by the Board to be necessary to their operation, the maintenance of "correspondingly high standards of personnel in the states and localities is," the News reports, "therefore the direct responsibility of the states."

In outlining the personnel policies of the Social Security Board Albert H. Aronson, its personnel director, says in the same issue of the Public Welfare News: "Laws are not self-administering and the personnel policies and practices of an organization may be the difference between success and failure in achieving its objectives. . . The Board is anxious to build up a career service in its work and has established a merit policy in accordance with the Social Security Act. Under the Act the only positions outside of civil service are those of attorneys and experts."

This example of personnel selection set by the federal government the News hopes will be followed in all states, for "the real substance of achievement depends on good administration which, in turn depends on competent personnel. We have laws and plans for social security and we have money. Whether social security actually amounts to anything depends on those in charge."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, March 28

Local Government Progress

Fixing the blame for our present economic "confusion" and our administrative "waste, with its sense of frustration," upon the politician or office-holder is but the surface indication of a disturbance which is much more basic, in the opinion of John M. Gaus, professor of political science, University of Wisconsin, who reports upon "The State of the Nation's Cities" in the 1936 Municipal Yearbook, to be published early in April by the International City Managers' Association.

"The fundamental truth," says Professor Gaus, "is that we have, in our rapid development, outgrown the neighborhood and village conditions in which our political ideas were formed, and we have failed to achieve any adequate positive conception of the city and its collective services as essential parts in a true economy and welfare essential to all citizens." As evidence of this confused public mind he cites "the heavy costs of our lack of preparedness for the expanded responsibilities of our local government; the lack of adequate exact knowledge on which to base programs of public works of all kinds; the confusion and cost resulting from mixing relief and public works without clarifying the respective objectives and possibilities, and hence priorities, of each; and the lack of long-time schedules of financing permanent public improvements."

Cities during the past year may be characterized, Professor Gaus finds, by "continued progress among the professional public services -- new ideas, appliances, methods of training, use of relief work by harassed, overworked officials serving on reduced salaries." With this professional advance the mass of citizens has not kept abreast, he reports. And he says that educational activities which will inform the public of these advances and how they may be used for the common good are a prime necessity.

"The municipal official has done a remarkable job during the depression," he adds. "It may be ironic to reward him with the assignment of an additional task of educating the public. Yet until that task is undertaken by those who know most about the city, his work is endangered by the shifting winds of sentiment of those who are ignorant of the problems of the community in which they live and upon which they are far more dependent than they realize."

JT. LIBRARY
MAR 27 1936

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, March 30

Governmental Research Commended in Two Cities

Governmental research work done during 1935 in one "far west" city and one "far east" city of the country shared honors in the third annual contest of the Governmental Research Association, results of which were announced today.

The work of Herman Kehrli, director of the Bureau of Municipal Research of the University of Oregon and executive secretary of the League of Oregon Cities, on "Portland Pension Problems" was judged the best among sixty reports submitted. Second place was given the report, "Boston's Tax Limit and the Local Application of the Municipal Finance Act," by Herman C. Loeffler, secretary of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau.

Members of the award committee were William H. Allen, secretary of the Municipal Civil Service Commission of New York City; John N. Edy, city manager of Toledo, O.; and William E. Mosher, director of the School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University.

Entries in the competition indicated the wide range of activities of the governmental research bureaus during the year. Among the subjects of reports were: cost of elections and registration, municipal debt problems, reform in tax collection procedure, real estate and personal property assessments, and the fire insurance classification of cities.

Last year's award was made to J. M. Leonard and Lent D. Upson, of the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research, for their study of the government of the Detroit metropolitan area. In 1934, first year of the competition, Herman Loeffler, who was given honorable mention this year, won first place for his critical analysis of the then proposed PWA construction program for the city of Boston.

There are 300 members in the Governmental Research Association, which is the professional organization of those trained to analyze local, state and national government, and advise on more efficient and economical operation.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, March 31

Housing Officials Acclaim N. Y. Court Decision

Decision of the New York Court of Appeals, highest court of the state, that condemnation of property for housing is a valid public purpose, is acclaimed by Edmond H. Hoben, assistant director of the National Association of Housing Officials, as a "landmark in the judicial history of housing." The decision specifically affirms the constitutionality of the use of eminent domain by housing authorities created under the New York State Housing Law.

With such a precedent set, Mr. Hoben says that "the task now before the proponents of public housing is to seek similar rulings from the courts of other states." Coming so soon after the withdrawal of the Louisville case before the U.S. Supreme Court, the New York decision, Mr. Hoben says, "helps to clarify the atmosphere," since it is "an affirmative reply by one of the most respected state courts in the United States to one of the two questions involved in the Louisville case: Is condemnation for housing a valid public purpose."

"Particularly encouraging," he adds, "is the feeling of the New York Court that no new problem of social policy was before it--that it was being asked only to authorize the use of eminent domain for a purpose for which the use of taxation and the police power was already authorized."

The case originated about a year ago, when Andrew Muller, and others, refused to sell two old law tenements on property which the New York City Housing Authority needed for a neighborhood rehabilitation project on New York's Lower East Side. Unconstitutionality of the condemnation was the defendant's only plea, and the entire decision depended on whether the taking back of the land for a housing project could be considered "for the use of the people."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, April 1

To Avoid "Ignorance of the Law" Plea

If citizens are expected to abide by the laws of their state, they should have a fair opportunity to learn what the laws are. This they haven't much chance to do, so long as state governments continue their present "chaotic practice of issuing administrative orders," says Edwin E. Witte, professor of economics at the University of Wisconsin.

Writing in the April issue of State Government, magazine of the Council of State Governments, Prof. Witte cites as an extreme example the Wisconsin "egg law" of several years ago, which prohibited the sale of eggs except on a prescribed grading system. Hundreds of grocers in the state refused to buy eggs from farmers until, after some search, it was discovered that the order had originated with a state employee who thought he was carrying out a law of the Department of Agriculture and Markets. The administrative order was found to violate an express provision of the statute under which it was adopted: that no order should prohibit the sale of ungraded agricultural products, provided they were so labeled.

Ignorance, not only on the part of citizens, but within the state departments, grows out of the present system of issuing administrative orders in most states, Dr. Witte says. Among the faults of these systems are looseness and variation in the law-making, and lack of a single source which can tell what administrative orders are in effect. Some departments with order-making powers publish their orders in the official state paper, others in bulletin and slip form; and some orders are not printed at all.

After twenty years in the state service, Prof. Witte still feels, however, that there are distinct advantages in delegating to an administrative department the responsibility of issuing certain orders. "Such a process of delegated legislation," he says, "makes possible a much better adaptation of the law to problems of particular industries and to particular situations."

Progress in improving the issuing of administrative orders has been made by the federal government, he comments, with the recent establishment of the Federal Register, in which all executive and administrative orders of the government are to be published. Similar steps are as much needed in the state governments, he adds.

Every statute vesting order-making powers in any state department should contain provisions to insure fair and orderly procedure, Prof. Witte points out. At the very least, orders which impose obligations upon the general public or which determine the rights and duties of individuals should normally be subject to requirements of advance publication of notice to interested parties, and of public hearings.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, April 2

No Hurry to 'Package' State Planning

State planning at its present stage is anything but "straight-jacketed;" it may touch a variety of endeavors, from surveying agricultural resources to studying for simplification of local government. This is the impression gathered from a recent listing of 1935 annual reports by state planning boards in the American Society of Planning Officials' News Letter.

The Iowa planning board has concentrated on the development of WPA activities, with three planning data projects: business and industry, urban zoning and planning, and a biological survey.

The Kentucky State Planning Board has made a complete inventory of resources of the state.

South Dakota has concentrated its planning board studies on agricultural resources and North Dakota has covered land planning and utilization.

Idaho's state planning board has made a land classification, has studied social security problems of the state, the schools, and forestry, flood control and recreation.

The New Jersey board has reported on the future use of the land, including the requirements for parks and forestry; and has made a land subdivision regulation and control study, along with a highway directional study.

Rhode Island's board in 1935 studied specifically slum clearance projects and public welfare, and made plans for the state tercentenary celebration in 1936.

One of the chief objectives of the Oregon State Planning Board has been research, in collaboration with a committee of the state legislature, into state and local governmental organization, to make recommendations for its reorganization and simplification.

The wisdom of such difference in the kind and extent of planning activities is commented upon in the recently published Proceedings of the First Conference on State Planning Administration arranged by the American Society of Planning Officials late last year. At this meeting, Charles E. Merriam, member of the Advisory Committee of the National Resources Committee, summarized in these words which he addressed to the assembled state planners, the attitude of the committee and the attitude of planners toward their work:

"There are those who say to me from time to time: 'I wonder if the state planners know where they are going?' I reply that at the moment, fortunately, they do not. If you were to meet here with one accord, one mind, and with complete unanimity of opinion, it could mean only that some master mind had overwhelmed you, or some master sword had been brandished over your heads. This is not the time to agree upon everything. This is the time for an inter-change of thought, information, and experience for long-range planning, and for the slow maturing of policies which will not be the same in the Northwest as they are in the Southeast, nor the same in New England as they are in the southern part of California. This is not the time to clamp down a steel frame on the soft flesh of people. Those who say they are sure always lead me to doubt their certainty and to wonder if there is not some insecurity on their part."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, April 3

The Merit System to the Fore

Personnel, Public

Interest in governmental affairs, heretofore limited largely to questions of taxation and administrative economy, is more and more being centered on personnel practices in the public service, says G. Lyle Belsley, executive director of the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada. This enlivened interest, he points out, is due to the "rapid growth in the number, complexity, and cost of governmental activities and to the manner in which those activities impinge upon the lives of all citizens."

National, state, and local governments employ lawyers, doctors, educators, engineers, accountants, social workers, nurses, and other professional workers to a greater extent today than they did a decade ago, Mr. Belsley reports. This is one reason, he adds, why those engaged in professional work are interested in the quality of the service rendered by government and in the occupational opportunities for those who are trained and experienced in their specialties.

To focus greater attention on the need for following the merit system of public personnel administration, and to get action from policy-forming officials Mr. Belsley advises unity among professional groups in all levels of government and in all geographical areas. Even greater pressure to "elminate political spoils from governmental cperations" can be exerted through the association of these professsionalized groups with "powerful and socially minded civic organizations."

Mr. Belsley points out that enactment or adoption of laws and ordinances which would establish or extend the merit system in government is not enough; that if these laws are to be "sympathetically carried out and are not to be sabotaged through poor administration, it is essential that all professional and civic groups in any jurisdiction make their influence felt by demanding that governors, mayors, and other appointing officers name only public-minded citizens of recognized integrity to such posts as civil service commissioners."

It is equally necessary, he adds, that public personnel agencies be given adequate funds and technically qualified staffs in order to perform properly the many services "that are expected of them by the operating departments."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, April 4

Tax-Exemption of Household Goods

Mainly because the amount of taxes collected does not appear to justify the administrative difficulties and expense involved, states are gradually abandoning the assessment and taxation of household goods, according to Albert W. Noonan, technical director of the National Association of Assessing Officers. If they are not entirely eliminating this tax, they are raising the maximum amount of exemption so that the majority of householders will be excluded.

Mississippi recently increased its exemption from $250 to cover all household goods, thus joining the practice of Delaware, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin. In 1935 Michigan increased its exemption from $500 to $1,000, which is also the exemption in Louisiana, Massachusetts and Tennessee. While $500 worth of household goods is legally exempt in Connecticut at present, the Connecticut Special Tax Commission has recommended that the assessment of all household furniture be abandoned.

There is no standardization in the furnishings of homes, the Tax Commission points out. Nor is there any uniformity in the age or serviceability of individual pieces of furniture. "To look to the assessors to make an annual inventory of all the household furnishings in their communities and to discover their market value is to impose an impossible task, which could produce only the most absurd and inequitable results.... It is the judgment of the Commission that all household furniture, radios, and musical instruments which are not used for business or professional purposes should be exempt from taxation."

In the state of Washington the exemption was increased to only $300, but even this amount, according to reports of many assessors, has permitted substantial savings in administration, since it has enabled dispensing with the services of hundreds of extra employees hired annually for the assessment of such property.

Fourteen states, however, still provide no exemption for household goods, Mr. Noonan comments, and in the other 23 states the amounts range from as little as $25 to $500.

"In view of the now generally admitted impracticability of attempting to assess household furnishings on anything approaching an equitable basis, and the obvious nuisance features and administrative expense such an attempt creates," say Mr. Noonan, "the low-exemption states might be better off if they abandoned the practice entirely or at least raised the exemption level to a point which would eliminate all except the owners of substantial amounts."

APR 9 1936
C. LIBRARY

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, April 6

State Finance - Admin - Ky. 1

To Assist in Kentucky Reorganization

Public Administration Service, a joint agency of fifteen national governmental organizations, all with headquarters in Chicago, will assist in putting into effect the provisions of Kentucky's Reorganization Act, it was announced today. The Service, which conducts research programs in government administration and provides installation and survey assistance to governments on a cost basis, will aid in developing a detailed plan of organization for all state departments and agencies, in establishing a finance department, and in installing budget, accounting, and purchasing systems. These improvements are all required under the Reorganization Act passed several weeks ago.

Although regular state employees will be relied on largely to carry through the changes required by the new law, their day-to-day operating responsibilities are so great, it is pointed out, that they will need help to get the new set-up under way so that the benefits from the changes can be realized as early as possible. Staff specialists of Public Administration Service will work not only with Governor Chandler, but with other state officials, including James W. Martin, chairman of the State Tax Commission; Dan Talbott, commissioner of insurance; James Cammack, public service commissioner; Nat B. Sewell, budget officer; and Walter W. Mulbry, the governor's secretary, who also will serve as the secretary of the governor's cabinet.

Public Administration Service at present is engaged in a personnel survey for the state of Michigan; in the administration and finance phases of the New York State Regents Education Inquiry; in a study of the civil service operations in the county, school, and city governments at Cincinnati; in a public welfare survey in Richmond, Va.; and in a highway department installation for Greenwich, Conn. The staff of Public Administration Service was used in establishing organization, administrative, and financial procedures for the CWA, FERA, PWA, and WPA, and it formulated an organization, accounting and budgetary plan for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, April 7

The People Poll for Civil Service

When 88 per cent of a representative cross-section of the American people favor civil service as against the spoils system of selecting public personnel, such opinion constitutes a clear mandate to the President and Congress for immediate action to extend the merit system in government, according to G. Lyle Belsley, executive director of the Civil Service Assembly. Mr. Belsley refers to the recent poll taken by the American Institute of Public Opinion, in which more than 100,000 Americans from all walks of life and all sections of the country were asked these three questions:

Should government positions, except those which have to do with important matters of policy, be given to those who help put their political party in office, or to those who receive the highest marks in civil service examinations?

Should all postmasters hereafter be selected by civil service examinations?

Should all Washington employees of the special emergency agencies created by the present Administration be placed under the civil service?

Affirmative replies to these questions were given by 88, 86 and 69 per cent of the "voters" respectively. Sentiment in favor of the merit system was not confined to members of any one political party. Eighty-three per cent of the Democrats, 91 per cent of the Republicans and 93 per cent of the Socialists participating in the poll favored civil service.

"The significance of this poll," says Mr. Belsley, "is that public opinion in favor of the merit system transcends party lines and state boundaries. It is also noteworthy that in those states where state and local civil service laws are found, the percentages in favor of the merit system were consistently higher than in those states which are still without such laws. This indicates that the practice as well as the principle of the merit system has met with popular approval."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, April 8

Federal-State Action on Motor Carrier Regulations

Joint participation of state and federal governments in regulating interstate motor-carrier traffic as legalized in the Motor Carrier Act of 1935 is an outstanding example of carefully planned, fully worked out, administrative cooperation. It should go a long way toward helping state motor administrative authorities to solve this troubling sectional problem, says Paul G. Kauper, New York attorney, in the April issue of State Government, magazine of the Council of State Governments.

This new example of federal-state cooperative effort puts the duty of regulating interstate passenger buses and trucks on the Interstate Commerce Commission, but with the enlistment of the administrative aid of state commissions. Some controversies arising under the Act are to be heard and decided by the Commission itself. All disputes involving not more than three states must be referred by the Commission to joint state boards. Those taking in more than three states may be referred to joint boards.

The joint boards are composed of one member from each state involved in the dispute. Members are nominated by the state regulatory commissions or the governor, and are approved and appointed by the Interstate Commerce Commission. All decisions and recommendations made by the joint boards are to be by majority vote, and recommendations must be approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission before they become orders. If exceptions are filed, the federal commission hears them and decides.

Interstate motor carrier operations are a relatively small part of all motor carrier traffic, and the bulk of motor carrier operations that are interstate in scope do not involve extensive and far-flung operations through a number of states. The object was to get a degree of decentralization, yet not too much of it. The plan outlined in the Act, Mr. Kauper explains, is "more practicable than decentralized federal administration."

Use of joint state boards in regulating interstate carrier traffic "does not mean that reasonable uniformity of motor carrier regulation will not be attained," Mr. Kauper comments. Furthermore, "the use of state commissions to administer federal regulations should be a persuasive force for coordination of interstate and intrastate motor carrier policies."

"The Motor Carrier Act, in achieving its purpose of committing the solution of local interstate problems to state officials who are intimate with local conditions, and of facilitating the coordination of interstate and intrastate policies," he concludes, "will lend greater vitality to the processes of local government, enhance the power of state officials, and check the expansion of federal personnel which would be required by complete regulation."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, April 9

The Cost of Social Services in Cities

If you wish to live in a city where taxes are the lowest, although the services you receive may not include everything you desire, choose one with 30,000 or fewer inhabitants. This is a conclusion to be derived from a study of what urban populations pay for the various municipal services that big and little cities render. The study is the latest in a series made by Prof. William F. Ogburn, of the University of Chicago, and published in the April issue of Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association.

The bigger the city, the more services performed, Prof. Ogburn notes, and, for most of these functions--police and fire protection, education, garbage collection, recreation--the higher is the cost. Prof. Ogburn's classification of cities for determing the outlay for various services includes six size-groups, dividing lines being at 1,000,000; 600,000; 300,000; 100,000; 50,000 and 30,000.

To care for the poor, to support hospitals, and to "correct" the lawless, cities of the three largest population groups pay annual per capita costs of $4.80, $4.70, and $4.60, respectively; whereas those of the lower population groups expend $1.70, $1.40 and $1.50, according to diminishing size. City care of the poor alone runs down the population scale from $0.70 to $0.41.

Per capita costs for health services are about three times as great in cities of more than a million as in those of 30,000 to 50,000 persons. Costs per capita per year for prevention and treatment of communicable diseases, food regulation and inspection, medical work among school children, and so on, average $1.50 for cities of the three largest population-groups and two-thirds of a dollar for the others.

Recreation also costs more in big cities than in little ones, the annual per capita outlay for this service amounting to $2.00 for the largest cities, and from $2.30 to $0.90 for the progressively smaller ones.

For education, the most expensive of the social services, differentials between cities of various sizes are much less than in the case of charities, health and recreation. For adult education, costs from the smallest class of cities to the largest range from $22 to $26. For young persons, 7 to 20 years of age, costs per person are between $73 and $102. The greater costs of education in the larger cities, which have more students per teacher, may be due to higher prices there, Prof. Ogburn comments, and it is also possible that in the smaller places the family performs some services rendered by the schools in large places, as, for instance, the teaching of home economics or manual training.

The governments of large cities spend more on libraries than do those of the smaller cities. Policing and the courts in the larger cities cost the most: $0.60, $0.40 and $0.20 as against $0.15 and $0.10.

Prof. Ogburn found that annual per capita costs of all services is about twice as great in cities of over a million inhabitants as in cities from 30,000 to 50,000. The range over the six population classes are:$104, $98, $88, $60, $54, $51; taxes were found to be: $72, $78, $68, $51, $45 and $41, respectively.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, April 10

Combination Police-Firemen in Three Cities

"Doubling in brass" is saving money on police-fire protection costs of three small council-manager cities, according to the April issue of Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association.

The cities are Oakwood, Ohio, population 6,497; Coral Gables, Florida, population 5,697; and Gross Pointe Shores, Michigan, population 700. They are respective residential suburbs of Dayton, Miami and Detroit.

Oakwood's department of safety is composed of 15 full-time men, in addition to the city manager, who is its active head. Two captains, one sergeant, two firemen, eight police-firemen, and two other men who serve as telephone operators, court bailiffs, and ambulance drivers make up the personnel. Two crews, each composed of a captain, one fireman, and three police-firemen, work 24-hour shifts on general police and fire duty, while two police-firemen and the police sergeant are assigned to police duty. At the end of every month all police-firemen shift into another position, to equalize the number of hours served on night duty. All men are equipped with fire fighting paraphernalia, in order that they may assume the duties of firemen when an alarm is sounded. Men on police duty also respond to fire alarms. Oakwood has had a class one rating from the National Board of Underwriters every year since 1930. The total cost of the department for 1935 was $33,873.

The 18 blue-uniformed members of the Coral Gables department of public safety are regularly assigned to either police or fire duty, policemen working nine hours a day and firemen 48 hours on duty and 24 hours off duty. A police emergency makes them all policemen, and a fire alarm calls the policemen to fire duty. This city is also rated in class one by the underwriters. Salaries paid the 18 men amount to $31,200 a year. In addition to regular police and fire duties, they are responsible for the painting of all street signs and traffic signs, and municipally owned automotive equipment. They maintain the fire stations and fire alarm system and municipal automobiles, and pay the expense of their target practice by reloading ammunition for other safety departments in the area.

Grosse Pointe Shores, which has no business establishment of any kind, has 13 men in its combination fire and police department. Three men are on duty at all times, working eight-hour shifts. One policeman is always at the station, and two patrol the village in radio-equipped scout cars. None of the men may leave the village without permission even when off duty, and not more than four ever leave at one time. These employes live in low-cost apartments in the village hall. The average per capita fire loss in this little city for the past five years has been 19 cents, and it has a class six rating from the underwriters. Salaries for the 13 amount to $28,990 a year.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, April 11

welfare - Medical servi

Public

Medical Care of Those without Income

For two years local communities have been receiving federal aid for medical care of the unemployed. How effective the use of these funds has been is explained in a pamphlet issued by the American Public Welfare Association. The pamphlet is based on a sampling survey of ten large cities made for the Association by the Rosenwald Fund. Cities examined were San Francisco, New York, Minneapolis, Boston, New Orleans, Denver, Buffalo, Chicago, Pittsburgh and Baltimore.

Federal aid for improving medical care of the unemployed and the unemployable was authorized beginning in July, 1933, under FERA order No. 7. The order laid down several policies: that existing facilities and methods of medical care for the poor, such as hospitals, clinics and salaried physicians, were to be continued; that participation in medical and dental care for relief cases was to be open to all licensed physicians, under direction of the professional societies; that practitioners were to be paid for their services; that the physician-patient relationship was to be retained so far as possible; and that the plan was for a limited, not a complete, service.

All but four of the ten cities checked--Boston, Baltimore, Buffalo and Minneapolis--took advantage of the aid offered under FERA No. 7 to provide for home care of those on relief in the community.

Home care of indigents in Boston is traditionally provided by privately supported medical institutions, and hospital and clinic care is given by the city hospital or by semi-public medical institutions; dental care is provided through the cooperation of the city's dental schools, hospitals and the professional dental society.

Baltimore, through its Department of Public Welfare staff of fee-paid physicians, continued to care for those without income in a limited way.

(MORE)

Previous to the depression Buffalo had a unified system of medical care in the homes, in hospitals, and in out-patient clinics, under direction of the Buffalo City Hospital. Emergency relief funds have been used only to pay for drugs, medical supplies and prosthetic appliances.

Minneapolis had, and still uses, a home visiting service established by the Board of Public Welfare. It is handled by three resident "city physicians," each of whom receives $100 a month and maintenance, and one "medical fellow," who is paid a smaller amount. Cases of acute illness and maternity cases are sent to the Municipal General Hospital and dental and medical care for others is provided at the hospital clinics.

Among the cities which adopted FERA No. 7, San Francisco reports in this survey a Central Medical Bureau with a permanent staff of sixty physicians, dentists, nurses and social workers, all working under one director.

Chicago has made a substantial expenditure of federal and state funds for the purpose of giving home care to the sick unemployed. Twenty-six hundred general practitioners, 2500 dentists, 17 non-profit clinics, 19 local non-profit hospitals and 2 non-profit nursing organizations are employed on a fee-basis.

When New York City adopted FERA No. 7, administration of its provisions was put under the medical service of the Home Relief Bureau. In 1935, there were 4,000 physicians on the "panel" for calls. Municipal hospital service was supplemented by voluntary hospitals to take care of relief patients.

New Orleans, which had previously provided hospital care in the city's Charity Hospital and in voluntary hospitals, under FERA No. 7 hired private physicians on a fee-schedule to give home attention to sick relief clients. No substitute for this service is available with the discontinuance of the state emergency relief administration.

Denver, which used FERA No. 7 for dental care only, has an added problem in providing medical care for tubercular transients stranded in the city which it has not attempted to solve.

All these plans have "necessarily involved large numbers of practitioners and have created problems of administration, finance and professional supervision," notes the report, and "they have been the more difficult because of being new to individual physicians, committees and the medical societies and welfare administrators."

Several points are made: that systems of home medical care utilizing large numbers of practitioners present difficult problems of management, especially when there is no salaried medical officer supervising; that hospital and home care of patients need to be closely correlated in the interests of economy and of good professional service; and that the special services available in clinics needed by certain patients cannot readily be secured under a general "panel" system of having physicians on call.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, April 13

P. C. H.
LIBRARY
APR 10 1936

Housing - Federal aid - Legislation

The New Housing Bill

Low-rent housing, looked upon by many as the football among the Administration's measures aimed at the improvement of social conditions, will become a well-defined governmental function, with the federal government acting primarily as sponsor and participant instead of owner and operator, if the Wagner-Ellenbogen bill, now before Congress, is enacted.

Despite the volume of discussion there has been on the subject this is the first housing bill introduced at this session of Congress. The Wagner bill, which deals only with low-rent housing and slum clearance, "not only acknowledges the federal government's long-term responsibility for aiding the housing of persons of low income," says Coleman Woodbury, executive director of the National Association of Housing Officials, "but sets up a flexible and workable agency for accomplishing this end."

Creation of a permanent, full-time agency, to be known as the United States Housing Authority, is provided in the bill. This Authority would be controlled by a board of directors composed of five members, with the Secretary of the Interior as an ex-officio member. Normal terms of the board members would be five years, with original terms staggered. The primary duty of the Authority would be to assist local public housing agencies, by grants and loans, to provide decent low-rent housing. It would also be empowered to initiate demonstration projects at the request of properly constituted local agencies and to lease such projects pending their sale.

By the terms of the bill the Authority is granted broad powers to insure maintenance of the low-rent character of the housing so that it does not come into direct competition with private building enterprise. To provide the required funds the Authority is authorized to issue its obligations, guaranteed by the United States Government, in amounts not to exceed $100,000,000 on or after July 1, 1936 and additional amounts of $150,000,000 on or after July 1, 1937, 1938 and 1939.

"Although the emphasis is properly placed upon decentralizing responsibility in planning, initiating, constructing, and managing projects to the local governments," says Mr. Woodbury, "this bill realistically recognizes that further demonstration projects by the federal agency itself will be needed in some localities. The Wagner bill is the most comprehensive and intelligent measure yet put forward by Congress for dealing with the problems of low-rent housing."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, April 14

Public Works or Public Welfare?

When public works agencies adopt public welfare objectives, sound public works practice flies out the window. This paraphrase of an "old saying" is the point of an editorial in the April Public Works Engineers' News Letter by Frank W. Herring, executive director of the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials.

In Mr. Herring's opinion, when making jobs for many men is judged more important than achieving needed improvements economically and efficiently, the real objective of public works suffers. He says:

"For more than five years operations in the public works field have been utilized to provide work for the unemployed. Millions of men have been put to work and a tremendous aggregate of valuable community assets has been created. In the process of attaining these results, however, putting men to work, rather than the creating and caring for a community's physical assets has come to be viewed as the major function of the public works field."

In selecting public improvement projects, he points out, good public works management demands that the priorities assigned be based upon the value to the community. Under the "make-work" program, however, although a community may need grade crossings more than a new airport, the airport is chosen because its construction means more jobs.

In selecting men, it is agreed that the ablest should be employed. But the need for a job rather than ability becomes the more important factor when job creation is the objective.

In actual construction, although economical techniques may be known, when the number of men employed directly on the job becomes the index of achievement, economy is a liability rather than an asset, and primitive practices are resurrected and put to use.

"Public works activity always results in jobs," says Mr. Herring, "but public works must be viewed as something more than a device for relieving unemployment. The public must be led to realize that public works is more than an emergency operation, to be undertaken only when employment in other fields is scarce and then to be administered as though job-making were its chief purpose. The proper primary responsibility for a public works agency is the efficient management of those physical facilities without which no modern community can live. Administrative practices must be geared to this major objective, or the public works field is doomed to a low estate."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, April 15

A Lesson from Scandinavian Municipal Governments

Scandinavian cities are proving that local governments can perform a multitude of services for the people, yet not be overburdened or carelessly managed, says Prof. Roy V. Peel, of New York University, now studying public administration in Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway.

In the current issue of Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association, Prof. Peel lists over thirty social and economic functions carried on by cities of these northern countries, either as individual efforts or cooperatively with the states.

Such social services as poor relief, child welfare, hospitalization and care of health, direct medical and dental care, care of the aged, special care for mothers, planning, housing, sanitation, and the regulation of morals, the cities usuallly perform themselves. Other services--old-age and invalid pension administration, unemployment relief, liquor control and temperance propaganda, education and recreation--they carry on in cooperation with or as agencies of the provincial or state government.

Other functions which are purely municipal and which Prof. Peel lists are: operation of electric light and power plants, gas and water supply; administration of ports and the supervision of economic activities and relations of shippers; operation of markets and businesses like restaurants, cafés, motion picture theaters and airports; food and drug control; operation of, or sharing control in banks and lending societies; ownership or operation of street railways and other transportation facilities; sharing in control of the liquor monopoly, the Bourse, the Chamber of Commerce; and a miscellaneous group of functions, important among which is the making of agreements between unions of municipalities and federations of communal workers.

Though municipal functions are considerably more numerous than in the case of American cities, Prof. Peel does not find them overwhelming the cities, for two reasons; (1) the national governments of all four countries tend to supervise the local governments to a great extent, directly, in a way comparable to the new federal-municipal relationships brought about in the United States by the depression; (2) the national governments perform many services which elsewhere are entrusted to local authorities or simply left undone.

Scandinavian cities have a reputation for being economically and efficiently managed, for having balanced budgets and good credit, and a well-trained and effective public personnel. This reputation has been attained, according to Prof. Peel, by following several "commandments":(1) spending money for public buildings and services for quality, but not for frills or waste; (2) choosing personnel by a strong merit system and treating government employees fairly (Swedish cities, for example, adjust all compensation to the nationally fixed cost-of-living indices, as they vary from place to place and from time to time); (3) following a financial policy whereby the slogan of the administrators, "Thus shall we have it," is checked at every turn by the legislators' "Where will we get it?" The largest single item of municipal revenue is taxation, and in the four countries, about 80 per cent of this is income tax. In Stockholm, Sweden, which is fairly typical, however, the returns from other sources--operating returns, rents, interest, and the like--amount to nearly twice the yield from taxation and to about four times the annual municipal borrowing.

Concluding, Prof. Peel marks a moral: "One reflects with amazement that here those principles which administrators evolved in England, France, Germany, and America are being tried and tested, as they should have been in the countries where they originated."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, April 16

Training-Police "On the Force"

Increased attention to the training of police by special courses after they have entered the service is evident from the tally of new "schools" arranged since the first of the year, according to the April issue of the Police Chiefs' News Letter, bulletin of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

As the first experiment in its proposed program to hold a series of regional fingerprinting schools, the Federal Bureau of Investigation recently taught police officers of the Dallas, Tex. region how to make identifications. Over 50 police officers, sheriffs, constables and other peace officers attended the five-day course.

Three new states are installing police training schools. The League of South Dakota Municipalities has announced three-day training schools in each of three different cities during April. The Minnesota League of Municipalities will hold a training course for police in May. A school is being planned by the Illinois Municipal League, and Georgia is considering holding one.

An unusual example of city-university cooperation in the training of police is found in Wichita Municipal University, Wichita, Kans. The university has established a two-year course in police science and 14 men now enrolled work part time for the Wichita police department at salaries of $50 a month while they learn.

The Massachusetts Association of Chiefs of Police will meet this month to consider cooperation with the Bureau for Street Traffic Research at Harvard University in the operation of a New England Traffic Officers' training school.

The course for traffic policemen at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, will play a part in the new urban traffic safety training program of the International Association of Chiefs of Police which has been made possible by a grant of funds from the automotive industry. This school, during its three years of existence, has been attended by approximately 125 police officers from all parts of the country.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, April 17

Interstate relations Cooperation

Legislative and administrative officials representing more than half the states will meet in Chicago in a two-day session beginning today to discuss interstate and federal-state problems. The conference has been called by the Council of State Governments, of which Henry W. Toll is executive director, and will concern itself largely with a discussion of the activities of the Commissions on Interstate Cooperation. These permanent agencies have been set up through joint legislative action in fourteen states. Interim committees on interstate cooperation, composed of either senate or house members or both, have been established in twelve other states.

There are many pressing problems, Mr. Toll says, which require immediate consideration and action. Although the control of crime is one of the most urgent, many other items of interstate conflict will be discussed by the commissioners. Such subjects include the care of transients, conflicting taxation, highway safety, milk control, water supply, labor agreements and stream pollution. The Council of State Governments has created committees to aid the Commissions on Interstate Cooperation in dealing with three of these subjects, control of crime, care of transients, and conflicting taxation.

Among the principal speakers at the conference will be Frederic A. Delano, chairman, Charles W. Eliot, II, executive officer, and Henry S. Dennison, Charles E. Merriam and Beardsley Ruml, members, of the National Resources Committee; Governor Paul V. McNutt of Indiana; Governor Olin D. Johnston of South Carolina; Judge Richard Hartshorne, chairman of the Council's Interstate Commission on Crime; Seabury C. Mastick, chairman of the New York Commission for Revision of the Tax Laws; Henry F. Long, Commissioner of Corporations and Taxation of Massachusetts; C. H. Morrisett, tax commissioner of Virginia; J. H. Thayer Martin, tax commissioner of New Jersey; Louis Brownlow, recently appointed chairman of President Roosevelt's committee on governmental reorganization; and John Garland Pollard, former governor of Virginia.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, April 18

Changes in Municipal Government

Seven of the 11 cities in this country which in 1935 changed their forms of government became council-manager cities, and now for the first time the number of cities operating under a city manager exceeds the number whose affairs are directed by a commission.

This change is only one of the numerous ones occurring in the governmental habits of cities as they are recorded in the 1936 Municipal Year Book, published today by the International City Managers' Association. Information on new trends in finance, police, housing, planning, and other functions is given on the 960 cities of the United States over 10,000 in population.

Governmental data on these cities show that at present more than one-half of them operate under the mayor-council plan. The council-manager cities, operated through a city manager, number 462, an increase of 15 during 1935. The town meeting continues to function as the form of government in 36 New England cities and in one city in New Jersey. Cities under the mayor-council plan most often have seven persons in the legislative chairs. Under the commission and the council-manager forms of government, the number of members is most frequently five.

How much interest did the people of these 960 cities take in electing their local lawmakers?

An analysis of the voting in municipal elections in 760 of the cities shows that only a little more than two-fifths of the population over 21 participated in the last council election. The remainder refrained because of lack of citizenship, lack of interest, sickness, or some other reason, perhaps rain. This number is 14 per cent under the approximate percentage of the total population over 21 in the United States which voted in the presidential election of 1932. The proportion of registered voters to the total population eligible to vote--62 per cent--however, is slightly higher than the figure reported last year. This, according to The Year Book, "may indicate an increased electoral interest in municipal affairs, or it may mean only that more persons have reached the age of 21 since the 1930 census than the number of persons over that age who have died."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, April 20

H.
RARY
APR 17 1936

Progress in Municipal Administration

Another annual progress report in municipal administration made by the International City Managers' Association is just off the press. Within its 475 pages this report, known as The 1936 Municipal Year Book, recites evidences of improved administrative practices, points to persistent deficiencies, and details the efforts of line and staff officers in municipal employ to safeguard the taxpayers' dollars without impairing the services rendered. Following are a few statements of progress, gleaned from The Year Book:

Phenomenal reductions in fire losses were recorded in 1935. Contributing reasons are: the enactment of state laws providing for inter-city and inter-county contracts for fire protection; extension of training programs for firemen to the point where more than 30,000 firemen attended schools in almost all of the 48 states.

Indexes of municipal employment rose in the larger cities and dropped in the smaller ones. Forty-three cities made 82 non-resident appointments during the year, signalizing progress in the professionalization of the municipal service.

Establishment by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of a school for training state and municipal police officers created a growing demand for adequate police training and laid the foundation for pre-employment training, which "may yet provide this country the best police training in the world." Police radio systems now are operating in about 300 cities and 15 states.

Centralized, coordinated, and cooperative purchasing for municipalities made "encouraging" progress during 1935. There are now 229 cities and 36 counties which can be said to have centralized purchasing.

There is an "increasing conviction that tax exemptions are the equivalent of government subsidies, and with this realization growing, the demand is being made that the subsidies be justified."

County planning legislation has been passed in 26 states; legislation authorizing the creation of city planning commissions exists in 42 states; and all but two states have state planning commissions, 33 of them with statutory authority.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, April 21

Direct and/or Work Relief

Confidence in the continuance of WPA as a relief measure, if it is supplemented and underpinned by direct relief for certain groups, is expressed by the Board of Directors of the American Public Welfare Association. Setting forth its position in the current issue of Public Welfare News, the board finds that a works progress plan is only one element in a plan that should be long-range in scope and should provide for what "is certain to be a permanent responsibility of government in caring for the unemployed."

"The WPA program has put to work approximately three million workers who would otherwise be on direct relief," says the bulletin. "It can be demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt that there are still on the relief rolls a substantial number of persons who are employable. Moreover, all persons who have recently come on direct relief, in addition to those who will come on the rolls during the year, are not eligible for work relief whether employable or unemployable.

"All these employables have now become local charges and the communities are utterly unable to carry the load without federal assistance. The current reports in the press of further reductions in WPA rolls means that many of those dismissed will go back to direct relief, thus increasing proportionately the insupportable burden which the states and the cities must carry."

When plans for the balance of 1936 are formulated, the Board suggests that the federal government provide, in addition to funds for relief wages, funds designed to assist states in meeting the needs of those employable cases not cared for by wages from the Works Progress Administration and the grants from the social security program. These funds, it adds, "should be provided under conditions imposed by the Administrator which would assure state participation and insure good standards of relief and personnel."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, April 22

Engineering - Administration

Engineers as Administrators

Public works engineers have a bigger job on their hands than supervising the waterworks department, building bridges and designing streets. Although they practice one of the oldest professions in the world, they are also related to a new profession--public administration--the duties of which they should realize.

Clarence E. Ridley, executive director of the International City Managers' Association, makes this point in the current issue of the Public Works Engineers' News Letter, bulletin of the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials.

Public administration, by common definition, includes seven elements: planning, organization, direction, staffing, co-ordination, reporting, and budgeting.

An engineer, according to Mr. Ridley, is:

A planner, when he decides on a street paving job. He must, in the process of designing the street, consider present and future traffic load, traffic safety, possibility of future widening, appearance, and cost and ability of property owners to pay for it.

An organizer when he works out the structure of the public works department so that it will function efficiently without too close supervision.

A director, if he gives the department leadership which transmits the objectives to each of the staff members, secures their acceptance and inspires morale.

A staff or personnel "man" when he sets up standards of competence for employees and provides conditions that will keep them contented.

A co-ordinator when he fuses structure, leadership and personnel into "going machinery."

A reporter, when he supplies understandable information on public works activities to the chief of the city, its legislative body and the public.

A budget-maker in his duty to forecast for the city financial officer the funds needed for public works expenditures.

Most of these elements are "quite foreign to the curriculum of many engineering schools," comments Mr. Ridley, but it is up to the practicing engineer to become proficient in them.

"Engineers are engineers; but engineers are also administrators," he says. "As engineers they must continue to maintain technical competence. As administrators they must broaden their scope of interest to include a new 'discipline,' always remembering not to overstress the technical and economic aspects of municipal activity at the expense of its 'human values'."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, April 23

Cities Unite for Common Causes

Over six thousand cities in the United States believe there is benefit in union. According to a report just made by the American Municipal Association, 6,187 cities are members of the 36 state leagues of municipalities, organized to further the interests of cities, towns and villages. This is an increase of 13 leagues and nearly 3,000 member cities in the past five years.

Nine of the leagues, as shown in the report, have close relationships with state universities: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota and Washington. In seven of these cases the league secretary is on the university staff.

Most of the leagues also have some connection with other governmental organizations in their state, the secretaries serving as the "link." The secretary of the Arkansas league, for example, directs the Bureau of Public Affairs for the state university's extension service. He is also a member of the state planning board, and is an associate professor of political science at the university. The Michigan league secretary directs the Bureau of Government at the University of Michigan. He is secretary of the Michigan City Managers' Association and the state planning conference, a member of the Michigan State Planning Board, on the advisory board of the state accident fund, serves on a state education commission, on a commission on highway finance and state taxes, and is a research consultant on the Committee on Urbanism of the National Resources Board.

Training schools have from the beginning of the existence of the leagues been an important activity. Over a five-year period a total of 44,435 officials--fire, police, finance, food inspection, welfare--have attended the schools, which are usually held for a period of one or two weeks. Fifteen of the leagues provided one or more such schools in 1935.

The American Municipal Association, organized in 1924, is the national federation of these state leagues, acting as a clearing house of information for them and carrying on a wide variety of activities. One of its duties is to keep members informed of federal legislation affecting municipal government, and to represent the interests of leagues nationally, in much the same way that the state leagues represent towns and cities before the state governments. Contact with municipal government and with the development of best practices in foreign countries is also maintained through the Association, which is a member of the International Union of Local Authorities, with headquarters at Brussels.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, April 24

Low-Cost Medical Care through Group Organization

For seven years most governmental and some private employees in Los Angeles County, California, have rid themselves of worry about doctor bills by paying $2 a month to their own clinic. The planning and the progress of this low-cost medical care are described in the pamphlet, "The Ross-Loos Clinic--a Pioneer Venture in Group Medical Practice for Public Employees," issued today by the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada.

The story goes back to 1928, when a number of employee-benefit associations in Los Angeles County first recognized the need for a plan to bring adequate medical care within reach of their pocketbooks. There were then in this community of 4,700,000 people five political units and at least five private and semi-private corporations employing a large number of low-salaried workers.

The Los Angeles Bureau of Water Power took the lead in asking two Los Angeles physicians, Dr. Ross and Dr. Loos, to form a group clinic for the purpose of caring for workers and families by monthly contract. The clinic was opened in April, 1929, with three physicians on the staff. By the end of the year there were eight doctors and 3,963 clients. For his $2 the subscriber gets free hospitalization for 90 days, and free laboratory, x-ray, physical therapy or ambulance service.

From April, 1929, to October, 1935, the number of subscribers grew to 14,076, and there are now 41 full-time physicians on the clinic staff. Five branch offices have been opened for distant localities, with fifty doctors serving these patients.

The founders of the clinic receive 27½ per cent of the net profits. Other doctors are on salary, but also share in the remaining 72½ per cent of the profits. Minimum salaries are $3,600 a year, which is estimated to be $1,100 higher than the income of one-third of all private physicians in 1929.

Toward the end of 1935, due partly to increase in the cost of medical supplies, the contract had to be revised, to provide for serving dependents of subscribers on a fee basis. Practically all the "old subscribers" signed. Despite attacks of some members of the medical profession through organized protest and legislation, the clinic has seen demand for its services grow, and it has been given the approval of the American Medical Association.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletion of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, April 25

Record of Low-rent Housing Progress

Rough and stony has been the way of low-rent housing in 1935, but there are undeniable signs of encouragement for the future, according to the Housing Officials' Yearbook, just issued by the National Association of Housing Officials.

Quoting Ernest J. Bohn, president of the Association, which is organized to improve standards and practices in low-rent housing activity, causes for disappointment in 1935 included: "the imperfections of hastily drafted legislation, unsatisfactory relations between federal and state laws and agencies, popular reaction from the debacle of real estate finance and investment of recent years, and the disposition of many persons to look upon official housing undertakings as temporary and emergency activities." On the side of encouragement Mr. Bohn places these facts: that more good housing was produced during 1935 than in the preceding two years together (50 projects under way, 47 actually under construction; 7 limited-dividend projects completed and occupied); that some weaknesses in existing legislation were corrected; that the rôle of local housing agencies, governmental and non-official, is now more clearly recognized; and that some lessons have been learned on housing standards, finance, subsidy, and the relation of various types of housing activity to one another. He describes the year for many of the housing agencies as a time of "getting second wind"--an "uncomfortable period, but an inevitable one."

Sixty contributors, from federal, state and local housing agencies and unofficial organizations, have made possible this 1935 review of housing activity. Accomplishments and plans of the eight federal agencies that have to do with housing, and of their coordinating agency, the Central Housing Committee, are described, along with the activity of the 43 official and unofficial housing agencies of states and cities. In addition, the 250-page volume contains articles on major housing problems

(MORE)

such as the acquisition of land for projects, the training of housing managers, the demolition of unfit housing, and the possible reduction of construction costs through prefabrication. There is also a charted summary of state legislation on low-rent housing, a directory of housing agencies and of state and local housing officials, and a discussion of English housing.

Continuance of the low-rent housing program, Coleman Woodbury, director of the Association points out, depends upon the establishment of permanent federal housing machinery. How many and what kinds of federal agencies are needed, and what the scope of operation should be, are, he admits, debatable matters. In his opinion, however, not more than two permanent federal housing agencies are needed--one for large-scale, neighborhood operations, and one for small unit building on individual lots. One of the chief arguments for a single agency would be this:

"An enormous amount of housing will have to be supplied during the next fifteen or twenty years....A large part of this housing will have federal aid of one kind or another, direct or indirect. To meet adequately this demand and at the same time to raise the standard of housing, a large volume of construction over a wide rental range must be started--both public and private construction agencies must get under way soon. One of the obstacles to private building may be the belief by builders...that public and other subsidized construction agencies will enter the private market and compete directly for tenants with buildings erected by private builders....One of the best ways to calm the private builder's fears and to assure him against the invasion of his market by public enterprise is to have the control of all federal assistance and participation in housing in the hands of one agency. Even the most rabid real estate association will then be unable to make a large number of private developers believe that the federal agency will 'cut off its nose to spite its face.'"

LIBRARY APR 27 1936

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, April 27

Municipal Relief Financing

The federal government's formula dividing the responsibility for relief on an employable-unemployable basis has failed to stabilize relief financing, according to reports made to the American Municipal Association by its member leagues of municipalities.

Results of a canvass of numerous cities represented by the leagues are quoted in the current issue of Public Welfare News. In general the opinion is expressed that "it is impossible for the local units of government, supported in the main by the property tax and handicapped by tax delinquencies, to finance the burden of 'unemployables' and in addition a relatively large number of 'employables.'"

The cities cite their inability to meet continued heavy financial burdens for relief by pointing out the existence of such restricting factors as "the narrow tax base," "delinquent property taxes," "outstanding debts which constitute a large percentage of taxable resources," and "economic conditions not improving rapidly enough to absorb thousands of the unemployed."

The possible solution to the problem of relief financing, as offered by many of the cities, urges that the three levels of government--federal, state and local--"agree upon a long-term program for a situation that has long since lost the aspects of an emergency."

"Relief and 'made' public works cannot be expected to cease abruptly, but will be rather a gradual and tapering process," says Clifford W. Ham, executive director of the American Municipal Association. "Sound administration can be had only by a recognition of this fact and by carefully considered correlation of federal, state and local public assistance and 'made' public works programs with long-term financial planning. The 'deadline' method of arbitrarily stopping projects on specific dates does not work out. And to say that no one is eligible for public assistance and 'made' public works except on showing that he received relief at a particular former time, or to withdraw relief entirely from specified areas at given times, as has been done previously, is merely to add to confusion."

The assumption must also be abandoned, he adds, that the problem of relief can be solved without a soundly organized attack on the problems of conflicting taxation and of integration of administrative problems between the various levels of government which have to do with this and other inter-governmental activities.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, April 28

Interstate Cooperation Progresses

Creation of three regional secretariats, patterned after the one which has functioned among the eastern states for the past six months, was recommended by the Council of State Governments' Commissions on Interstate Cooperation at their second general assembly held in Chicago last week. Almost 100 delegates representing 28 states attended the conference. The secretariats will be established when and as funds are provided for their maintenance, and commissions on interstate cooperation are established.

Establishment of the secretariats is not to be construed as meaning that the work of the Council of State Governments is being broken up on a sectional basis, says Henry W. Toll, its executive director. Rather, he says, it is a logical step in servicing the states which, either socially or economically, have identical interstate problems which must be solved through administrative adjustments, enactment of reciprocal legislation, or through interstate compacts. The three regions in which the secretariats will be located include the following states: first region, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky; second, all the 11 "plain" states plus Nebraska; and the third, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

Need for these regional secretariats was clearly brought out at group luncheons, notably those representing the liquor manufacturing states of the middle west and south, and the tobacco states of the southeast. The Kentucky delegation reported that distillers threatened to move from the state, thereby robbing Kentucky of one of its chief sources of income, if the legislature increased the production tax on liquor from five to ten cents a gallon. It sought the sentiment of other states looking toward an equitable adjustment of all production taxes on liquor. The flue-cured tobacco states of the southeastern seaboard started machinery to work which will put into motion the provisions of the Kerr bill recently passed by Congress, which allows control of production of tobacco through certain interstate arrangements.

The Second General Assembly of Commissioners on Interstate Cooperation also authorized the creation of an Interstate Commission on Social Security Legislation, signifying its belief that some problems are not merely interstate or regional, but national, and should be solved through greater federal-state cooperation.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, April 29

Council-Manager Cities Top in Health Programs

Cities under council-manager government got the highest marks for health programs in 1935 in proportion to cities under other forms of government. Results of the seventh annual health conservation contest conducted by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and the American Public Health Association show that in all population groups, cities with city managers made outstanding records.

In the cities with populations between 100,000 and 500,000, 21 per cent of which have city managers, nearly one-fourth of the winners were under council-manager government. These included Oakland, Cal., which won first award in the group of 250,000 to 500,000 population, Dallas, Tex., and Grand Rapids, Mich.

In the 50,000-100,000 population class, 27.6 per cent of which are council-manager cities, 60 per cent of the winning cities had been under city managers during the period of the contest. These included Pasadena, Cal., New Rochelle, N.Y., Kalamazoo, Mich., Greensboro, N.C., Binghamton, N.Y., and Sacramento, Cal. Two of the other winners, Schenectady, N.Y., and Saginaw, Mich., have had city manager government since the beginning of this year.

Among the smaller cities, those between 1,000 and 50,000 population, while approximately 6 per cent have council-manager government, more than 27 per cent of the winners in the health contest were city manager cities. These were Auburn and Watertown, N.Y., and Miami Beach, Fla.

The health conservation programs were judged on the basis of the availability and use of safe water supply, the adequacy of sewage disposal, the extent to which children are protected against contagious diseases, the number of expectant mothers who receive prenatal care, the number of babies being kept well through adequate medical supervision, safety and purity of the milk supply, the use of effective measures for control and prevention of such maladies as tuberculosis and venereal diseases, and the extent to which the physicians and dentists are practicing preventive medicine.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, April 30

City Employees

It takes nearly 480,000 people to run the 746 cities of the country over 10,000 population, according to The 1936 Municipal Year Book, just issued by the International City Managers' Association. This averages 9.4 employees for every 1,000 people, ranging from 6.1 employees in the smallest cities to 11.7 employees in cities over 500,000.

Taking the number of employees per thousand population as an index of municipal employment The Year Book indicates that there was an increase for all cities over 30,000 from 9.2 in 1934 to 9.9 in 1935. In the cities between 30,000 and 100,000 there was a decrease from 7.5 to 7.2.

This year for the first time The Year Book took a census of original or "new" appointments to full-time positions in the municipal service, finding that in 596 cities, 19,663 such appointments were made in 1935. This meant that for every 100 full-time employees 1935 saw 5.7 new jobs created. Comparison with this information in 1936 and later years will show whether municipal employment opportunities are expanding or contracting.

Asked to report how many new appointees were non-residents of the city at the time of appointment, the eight largest cities replied "None"; and only 43 of the 648 smaller cities indicated that such appointments had been made. Five of the 43 cities were in Michigan, four in Virginia, three in Ohio and one in Illinois. According to The Year Book this is not an especially encouraging sign for career service, which is made possible in great degree by the extent to which appointments are made across city boundaries. Information on the number of "separations" from jobs in 1935, including deaths and retirements, indicates that the municipal employee recently has probably had a better chance of keeping his job in the smaller cities than in the larger ones.

Less than one-fourth of the cities reported a central personnel agency or any agency performing central personnel functions; 10 per cent have agencies for police or fire departments only; and 4 per cent more secure their personnel services from a state agency. All cities over 500,000, however, reported having some sort of personnel agency.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, May 1

Dual Office Holding

Dual office holding, especially by state legislators, is coming in for criticism, according to Henry W. Toll, executive director of the American Legislators' Association. The most frequent argument against the "two-job man," Mr. Toll explains, is not the double salary received, but the fact that the individual in the pay of more than one branch of the government may be influenced by conflicting persuasions.

In Florida, where 21 members of the legislature receive salary checks for work for the executive department of the state in addition to their legislative pay, suit has been brought by a taxpayer on ground of unconstitutionality, and a citizen league has asked for a clarifying constitutional amendment. During the past year the attorney general of Oregon has given several decisions on a state constitutional provision which makes persons holding "lucrative" federal or state offices ineligible to legislative seats.

According to a survey made by the Providence Governmental Research Bureau, all 48 of the state constitutions forbid one or more forms of dual office holding.

The most common provision is one that prevents legislators from holding other offices under the federal, or foreign, or other state governments. This is written into the constitutions of all but three of the states. Thirty-eight states have provisions against legislators holding other state positions. Only the constitutions of Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Nevada, Rhode Island, Washington and Wisconsin fail to contain this provision or a general clause prohibiting dual office holding by anyone in the pay of the state. Five constitutions also contain specific provisions against the holding of local offices by legislators: Missouri, Kentucky, Michigan, New Mexico and New York. The constitutions of 22 states prohibit legislators from holding other offices created, or the pay of which is increased, during their terms.

Governors in 23 states are restricted to this single office, and in a number of these states other executive officers such as the auditor, secretary of state, and attorney general are likewise limited.

Thirty-seven states provide that judges, at least those of the two upper courts, should not at the same time hold other offices.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, May 2

Planners to Hold Joint Conference

Need for re-emphasis on city planning will take much of the attention of three national planning organizations when they meet in Richmond, Va., May 4-6. The agencies are the American City Planning Institute, the American Planning and Civic Association, and the American Society of Planning Officials.

Two of the three-days' sessions will be devoted to local planning--either county or city--with reports of practical experience in city planning a highlight. On the final day the program will deal with the educational and administrative aspects of planning programs, with state and interstate planning progress, and with national planning.

Among those who will discuss in speeches or lead round-tables in the 1936 problems of planning are: Gardner Means and Frank Lorimer, of the National Resources Committee; Fred Schnepfe, director of projects, of PWA; Clifford W. Ham, director of the American Municipal Association; Hugh Pomeroy, California planning consultant; Russell V. Black, consultant-director of the New Jersey State Planning Board; and Prof. Arthur C. Comey, of the Harvard School of City Planning.

"State planning has been emphasized and many county planning organizations have been formed during the past two years," comments Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials. "But city planning has had little attention. The thousand-odd city planning commissions of the country have been hard hit by the depression. However, partly as a result of state planning studies, and partly because WPA and other federal projects are demanding plans for certain types of public works, there has been a rebirth of city planning in a number of cities. Reports to the American Society of Planning Officials show that Cincinnati, Detroit, Milwaukee and Oakland, Cal., are among the larger cities whose planning commissions are resuming activity."

As an indication of what local planning has meant to some cities, Mr. Blucher quotes the comment of Iowa State WPAdministrator L.S. Hill, who said at the state planning commission's first conference recently that "the city of Des Moines, because of previously made plans, had received millions of dollars worth of improvements through the present WPA program," representing a return of approximately $1,000 for every dollar spent for the function of planning.

ST. LIBRARY MAY 2 1936

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, May 4

Tax

Effects of Limiting Property Taxes

Increased experience with laws limiting the tax on real estate reveals more clearly their failure to equalize the tax burden, according to the revised edition of Property Tax Limitation Laws, published today by Public Administration Service, Chicago. When the first edition of the pamphlet was issued, early in 1934, the consensus of the 24 contributors was that tax limitation laws, prescribing over-all limitations in eight states, and partial limitation in many others, tended to cripple municipal services, hurt municipal credit, and add to the difficulties of running local governments. Proposals for such limitations have been widespread since the depression.

"Case histories" of states with over-all limitations are cited in the new pamphlet as proof of "unfavorable" effects of the laws intended to lighten the burdens of taxpayers who hold real estate. These are among the results noted:

All of the eight states which have blanket tax limits have adopted a sales tax (six of them since the limitation measure went into effect.) The tax burden has thus been shifted from the home owners to the consumers, largely persons of small income.

Indiana, according to the director of the Governmental Research Bureau of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, has not experienced real tax limitation, because the "emergency" clause written into the 1933 law has been liberally interpreted. Here the county tax adjustment boards, set up under the tax limitation law, may "allow" any rate beyond the tax limit that is needed when a municipal corporation is in a pinch.

In Michigan, says Harold D. Smith, director of the Michigan Municipal League, the tax-limit law "has tangled property-tax procedure and made equalization impossible; it has reduced budget-making to a hollow form; it has stopped all

(MORE)

short-term credit and long-term capital borrowing; it has forced the state to abandon the levy on property and to adopt a retail sales tax; has stimulated a movement for an income tax although greatly complicating the drafting of a constitutional amendment to permit such a tax; and it has forced the schools into the position of demanding a greater state equalization fund or closing their doors."

Effects in Ohio have included a 3 per cent sales tax and the enactment of a new plan of educational equalization which finances practically half the schools from state-administered taxes. Some cities have been hard pressed to find funds for operation of municipal services. Cleveland, in February, 1936, voted an extra levy of seven mills to carry on ordinary municipal operations.

In Washington the loss of revenue has been made up in excise taxes, a 2 per cent retail sales tax, and occupational taxes. Counties have been hardest hit by loss of support for welfare work. Cities have enacted business license ordinances and special utility licenses, but still many of them are going into debt. Initiative measures to eliminate the sales and occupation tax, and to reduce the state gasoline tax to three cents are now being promoted, as is a measure to raise the tax limit.

West Virginia cities, under an over-all tax limit law since 1932, can neither pay their debts nor support their services. Several cities have attempted to bring in substitute revenue by municipal sales taxes.

The authorities contributing to the pamphlet discussion do not deny that the revenue system should be revised, but they are generally of the opinion that the governmental economies desired, and the shifting of the tax burden from real estate must be achieved by other, less disruptive measures. Advocates of tax limitation, they point out, refuse to recognize the problem of operating government when real estate tax revenue has been reduced and no substitute has yet been found to take its place; and they fail to realize that in the "shift" the tax burden may be put on the shoulders of people just as unable to pay as those who own real estate.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, May 5

City Planning in the Practical Sense

The practicality of planning should be its biggest selling point to municipalities, Charles B. Bennett, for seventeen years city planner of Milwaukee, told those at a conference sponsored by the American City Planning Institute, the American Planning and Civic Association and the American Society of Planning Officials at Richmond, Va., yesterday.

Defining planning as "the highest form of municipal research," Mr. Bennett sees it as a continuing, indispensable department of local government--not a brief-lived commission that calls its work done upon completion of a "master plan."

A city planning commission made part of the municipal administration as a research bureau would be the best possible arrangement, he said. It would be charged with the responsibility of first gathering all of the facts having any relation whatsoever to urban problems. It would make itself well acquainted with the functioning of other municipal departments, and "certainly learn more about the problems of taxation."

"After all," he commented, "the primary purpose of taxation is to furnish the most necessary bread and butter services needed by the community for safety, health, and education...The average taxpayer first wants those services which come closer to home, and Mrs. Taxpayer gets a great deal more satisfaction out of having her ashes hauled regularly than she does out of a street widening improvement or a new viaduct."

There are many recommendations, such as zoning ordinances and platting restrictions, which a planning commission can make, however, that are "financially painless."

His own city's planning commission, Mr. Bennett said, has for the past ten years been operating more as a municipal research bureau than as an agency preparing plans for parks, boulevards and civic centers. As a result, not only are other city departments dependent upon the planning commission for factual data, but local and outside commercial interests are also. The research data available in the planning files, he said, constituted "one of the primary determinants in the selection of Milwaukee for a $2,800,000 PWA housing project and a $7,500,000 Resettlement Administration suburban development."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, May 6

Progress of States under the Social Security Program

Progress of state participation in the social security program under the federal act passed in August, 1935, is reported in a pamphlet, "The Social Security Program: Legislative and Administrative Developments," just issued by the American Public Welfare Association.

Previous to 1935, when social security legislation sprang largely from state initiative, the score on the various provisions stood as follows: old age assistance, 28 states; aid to the blind, 20 states; aid to dependent children, 45 states; unemployment insurance, 1 state.

As of April, 1936, old age assistance laws existed in 39 states; 33 states had new or amended statutes on aid for the blind; 46 had made provision for dependent children; and 11 states had provided for unemployment compensation.

Many of the state plans for public assistance which have been approved by the Social Security Board as a prerequisite to state participation in federal grants introduce higher standards than those previously sponsored by the states alone. Thus far 28 such plans for old age assistance have been approved, as have 19 plans for aid to the blind and 18 plans for aid to dependent children. From February 11, when the first checks went out to the states, to April 1, a total of $7,026,693 was granted to the states, caring for an estimated 500,000 persons.

The Children's Bureau has approved plans for child welfare services in 23 states, plans for crippled children in 26 states, and plans for maternal and child health services in 40 states. A total of $2,277,861.93 has already been allotted to the states for administration of these services.

All but six of the states, also, have received some part of their allotments for public health services, for which over $3,000,000 was appropriated under the Act. All but three states are cooperating in the program for vocational rehabilitation, and allotments are being made currently.

Unemployment compensation laws of 9 of the 11 states that have passed them have been approved by the Board, and a total of $350,513.84 has been granted to seven states and the District of Columbia for administration. Over 7,000,000 workers are covered by approved laws.

In the section devoted to administrative developments, the pamphlet stresses the fact that the success of the social security program rests upon efficient state administration.

-- T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E --

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, May 7

Demolition

Inadequate legal power, as well as political interference, too often stands in the way of the demolition of unsafe housing, according to the Housing Officials' Yearbook, just issued by the National Association of Housing Officials.

"Although scarcely a single national or local plan for housing activity is proposed nowadays which does not include some reference to demolition as a necessary or advisable activity," says Edmond H. Hoben, assistant director of the National Association of Housing Officials,"many local governments feel that they must first have ready a comprehensive city plan and rebuilding program. This is not necessary. A great good may be accomplished merely by removal of the unsafe buildings and leveling of the sites."

The absence of proper legal machinery, according to Mr. Hoben, too often blocks the demolition of unfit buildings. In some cities the officers who are charged with carrying out a demolition program are personally liable for damages resulting from their official activities. This situation, Mr. Hoben points out, should be corrected. Often, too, responsibility for demolition is so widely distributed among various city departments, such as police, fire, or health, that no one of them is willing or able to carry on a broad and effective campaign under its limited powers.

To the objection that an impending housing shortage makes it difficult to find quarters for persons displaced by demolition activity, Mr. Hoben answers that "if any consequential amount of demolition is to be accomplished, much attention cannot be given to the objections engendered by either a depression-bred destitution or by housing shortage. If such objections were allowed to control policy, there would be effective demolition only during short periods of normalcy on the way up from or down to an economic slough."

In some large cities political corruption has actually blocked the efforts of interested groups to inaugurate more effective programs, Mr. Hoben comments. Unless the pressure from civic groups is too great, he adds, politicians and officials have been interested more in protecting than in eliminating unfit structures because their continued existence guarantees a constant source of revenue from owners paying "protection."

In Mr. Hoben's opinion, Milwaukee has carried on a successful demolition program, "unusual in that its inauguration or continuity cannot be traced to any marked crusade on the part of citizens' groups." During the past six years, 1,800 housing units have been eliminated and 4,126 units have been constructed. Efficient inspection work of the regular staff enables the building inspector's deputy with one assistant to make out all papers and serve all notices necessary to compel repair or demolition of buildings reported unfit. In 1934 the building inspector's office, with CWA help, surveyed all frame structures in 33 per cent of the fire districts, and by the end of 1935, 95 per cent of the buildings reported unsafe had been demolished.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, May 8

Intelligible Local Government Costs

County Manager Roy S. Braden, of Arlington County, Va., a community of 35,000, believes in translating the cost of government into terms the taxpayers can understand. In his proposed budget for 1936-1937, according to the City Manager's News Letter, is this statement of per capita annual costs:

For the county board, manager, auditor and purchasing department, $0.79, or the price of 5 gallons of gasoline.

For tax assessing and collecting, $0.97, which is the cost of 2 pounds of Virginia ham.

For the courts, $0.42, or a pound of steak.

For police, $1.41, or a 4-pound beef roast.

For fire protection, $1.00, or a pair of silk stockings.

For welfare, $0.42--one tube of shaving cream.

For health service, $0.46--a quart of ice cream.

For engineering service, $0.60--a Coca Cola a month.

For sewer operation, $1.15--the price of a straw hat.

For garbage and refuse collection, $0.88--a half dozen roses.

For upkeep of buildings and grounds, $0.42--three quarts of milk.

For street lighting, $0.80--an inexpensive necktie.

For roads and streets, $4.57--less than one shoe shine a week.

For debt service, $2.07--two Sunday dinners "out."

For schools, $12.56--one movie a week.

Moreover, Arlington County citizens are not taxed directly for all these services. The taxes on real and personal property, amounting to $768,150, represent an annual per capita payment of $21.95, or $1.83 a month--"quite a lot less than the cost of one loaf of bread per day," says Mr. Braden.

--T H E R E IS A N O T H E R R E L E A S E ON THE N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, May 9

Decrease in the Number of Local Governments

Though the number of governmental units in the United States--approximately 175,000 in 1931--has decreased only slightly in the past four years, opposition to the elimination of needless units is gradually breaking down, according to William Anderson, University of Minnesota political science professor.

Writing in The Municipal Year Book, just published by the International City Managers' Association, Prof. Anderson estimates that the number of counties, incorporated places, towns and townships, school districts and other special districts decreased only about 2 per cent from the end of 1931 to the beginning of 1936. The actual reduction is from 175,369 to 171,689, or only 3,680 units.

There is real proof, however, says Prof. Anderson, that legislative opinion on the matter is beginning to change, thus indicating more rapid elimination of unnecessary units in the future. More and more are laws being enacted to authorize either the outright dissolution or the consolidation of local units. Political opposition to such laws is still strong, he adds, but "where the legislation is made locally optional, the opposition in the legislature can be overcome, only to retire, of course, to the local unit for its last stand." The transfer of functions from town to county and from county to state also paves the way for dissolution or consolidation of local units, he finds.

County consolidations have been authorized by new laws in Minnesota, Oregon and Wisconsin during the past four years, Prof. Anderson reports. In California a proposed constitutional amendment would permit city-county consolidation, and one proposed in Florida would unite two small counties. Contiguous cities will find it easier to consolidate under new legislation in Pennsylvania. Township organizations in Minnesota, which must be abolished under certain conditions of financial disability, have decreased by 70. Oklahoma's 969 townships have lost the power to levy taxes except to pay outstanding debts and judgments. The prohibition in New York state against the creation of new special districts, such as fire and sidewalk, has been extended to May, 1937. School district consolidations have been encouraged by new laws in Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana and New Mexico.

School districts, which outnumber other local units three to one, show the "most pronounced and persistent tendencies toward decrease," according to Prof. Anderson's figures. The total decrease in districts has been about 2,500. Twenty-seven states reported definite reductions in the past four years, and only five, increases, which were slight. The largest decreases were noted in California (234), Illinois (204), Michigan (about 150), Texas (375), New York (495), and West Virginia (355).

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, May 11

C. H.
LIBRARY

A Central Office for Small Cities

Consolidating the usual dozen or so governmental offices and putting them in the hands of a single officer is suggested as an economical and efficient plan for small cities and villages in the current issue of Municipal Finance, quarterly journal of the Municipal Finance Officers' Association.

The plan is described by C. R Nimmons, who is the "consolidated officer" of Johnson City, N.Y., town of 11,000. Mr. Nimmons has held this position for several years, since Johnson City residents demanded simplification of its government through consolidation of offices, with economy a secondary objective.

At one time Johnson City employed from nine to twelve different men to transact the duties of village clerk, treasurer, tax collector, assessor, building inspector, registrar of vital statistics and water rent collector. The clerk and the tax collector were employed on a fulltime basis, while the remainder of the posts were distributed among village residents "of the correct political affiliation." These employees cost the village about $12,000 a year.

Mr. Nimmons, with the title of "fiscal officer," performs all of the above duties, at a considerable saving in salary to the city.

He emphasizes, however, that he is "not separately a treasurer, a tax collector, a clerk," but that he is an "administrator of interrelated municipal affairs." This "fingertip control," he says, "minimizes duplication of effort and contributes to greater efficiency and economy." Collection of water rents and special assessments, for example, is carried out by identical methods in so far as possible under restrictive state laws...Index-systems--the same for building inspections as for vital statistics--permit easy reference...A plan which has proved efficient in one department is adopted for use in another...The conduct of the assessor's and treasurer's posts by a single person has permitted establishment of a system of uniform assessment and has resulted in the elimination of complaints on alleged unfair assessments.

Mr. Nimmons does not recommend the consolidated plan for cities over 20,000. But for small cities and villages, "where elective officials have neither the time nor the inclination to make their municipal jobs full time ones," he believes it to be "ideally suited."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, May 12

Vital statistics

Cincinnati Studies Mortality

An uncomplimentary rating on U.S. mortality lists has resulted in one city's seeking the why and wherefore, and discovering the way to improve it, according to Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association. The city is Cincinnati, which for a number of years had a mortality rate 25 per cent higher than that of the average American municipality.

Study of the reasons for this unfavorable situation was recently undertaken by the Public Health Federation, which represents all public and private health organizations in the county. Comparison with twelve other cities of the country of similar size, with comparable negro and white population, showed first of all that Cincinnati's white death rate was 1½ per cent higher than the average--not a significant difference; but the negro rate was decidedly higher than average--by 12½ per cent.

Diseases most often disastrous--and equally fatal to negro and white population--were found to be appendicitis, tuberculosis, scarlet fever, whooping cough, gastro-enteritis, auto accidents, diseases of infancy, and cerebral hemorrhage. Except for the last, every one of these "death dealers," it was noted, is controllable.

Vital statistics of every one of the city's 107 census tracts were also examined by individual death certificates. By a method of economic rating on the basis of median rents, it was found that although for many diseases the death rates differed but little in the four economic areas set up, in the tolls of certain of the diseases there was a great contrast between the families of the lowest income groups and the rest.

The white baby born in congested tenement areas (around Cincinnati's downtown Basin) has one-half the chance of the more fortunate babies of the suburbs to complete his first year. He is four times as likely to be fatally stricken with summer complaint before he reaches his fifth year. Up to 15 years of age he runs two and one-half times the risk of succumbing to the contagions of childhood. At almost any age he is more than three times as likely to die of pneumonia.

Suicides among poor white people were shown by these studies to be twice as frequent as among those more fortunately situated; and murder six times as great. From all causes combined the rate of death is 50 per cent higher in the congested areas. Similar contrasts were found for the negro population of different economic status, the single exception being the suicide rate, which among the poorer negro groups is only one-third of the rate among better-to-do negroes.

Bleecker Marquette, secretary of the Public Health Federation, who writes the article, believes that the Cincinnati study has added to the proof of the assumption that disease and high death rates are very closely related to poverty.

"Needless to say," he adds, "no one community can do much about (raising) income levels, nor does it seem likely that these levels can be changed rapidly." Reclamation of slum areas is a slow process, also. Therefore, more efficient public health machinery and greater expenditure for preventive work where it is most needed must be utilized.

In Cincinnati, areas where concentration of public health effort is needed were made apparent by the health study. With this knowledge at hand, the Public Health Federation is at present making an investigation of the best way of providing the most effective public health and hospital services for the city.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
350 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, May 13

Public works

Neglect is not Economy

Cutting the budget on expenditures is not the same as economy for the municipal public works department, according to Frank W. Herring, executive director of the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials. Mr. Herring explains why, in the current issue of the Public Works Engineers' News Letter, published jointly by the two organizations.

While ecomony in the public works department, which spends so large a share of the city's purse, is thought to be served by limiting expenditures to a figure far less than the amount estimated as necessary for adequate care of the properties, he says, "true economy must take into consideration that expenditures and costs are not the same thing, except in the very long run."

"One of the larger elements entering into the cost of public works is the physical deterioration of municipal facilities--streets, sidewalks, sewers, sewage treatment plants, water systems, public buildings, and so on," he points out. "Frost and rain take their toll entirely independent of the level of public works expenditure. Wear and tear through use proceed, regardless of the best intentions of the budget makers. In fact, the annual cost of deterioration is quite beyond the control of any public body, for it is caused by forces not taking orders from the city hall."

To maintain at its full value the integrity of a property--which is the real meaning of "maintenance"--requires that the care provided keep pace with the inescapable losses through deterioration, Mr. Herring points out. "In other words, expenditures must keep pace with costs....When regular care is allowed to fall short of the needs of the situation, the difference represents the value of city property that has been abandoned. And...to reclaim properties that have been neglected for a period of years is a painful and expensive operation."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, May 14

[Agriculture]

Secretary Wallace Asks States' Cooperation on Farm Act

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace places upon the states responsibility for the working out of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, successor to the AAA. His request appears as a message to state legislators and officials in the May issue of State Government, official magazine of the Council of State Governments.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision against the constitutionality of the AAA, on the ground that it "invades the reserved rights of the states," is a clear pronouncement, Secretary Wallace says, "that any measures undertaken with the primary purpose of regulation and adjustment of agricultural production lie within the province of the states, and not of the federal government."

The states can go much farther in their regulation, he adds. Unlike the federal government, they have the constitutional power to enter into contracts with producers, to regulate their plantings, or even to adopt measures that will restrict their plantings and production.

Recognition of the dependence upon the states has been shown in operations under the new Act thus far, according to Secretary Wallace. The detailed conditions upon which payments to formers participating in the program will be made, and the rates of payments, will be based upon recommendations submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture by committees and other agencies in the states themselves--not worked out by general formula in Washington.

Under the new Act, the federal government is empowered, until January 1, 1938, to make grants directly to individual producers to assist them in adopting farm practices tending toward conservation of the farm land. This two-year period is allowed in order to give the states time to prepare--by passing the necessary legislation, collecting the necessary information, and setting up the proper agencies--to take over the program themselves. After the end of 1937 grants of money appropriated under the new Act can be made only to the states and not to individual producers. Then it will be the task of the federal government to coordinate the state plans for effectuating the purposes of the Act.

Although the "assignment of this program to state governments constitutes perhaps the most colossal undertaking in cooperation between state and federal governments since the United States became a nation," Secretary Wallace points out, it is not the first such undertaking. "Precisely the same framework of cooperation exists in the state Agricultural Extension Services, which have been the main field force of the Agricultural Adjustment Act; the state Agricultural Experiment Stations; the Smith-Hughes vocational agriculture teaching project; the federal-aid highway program, and other activities."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, May 15

Personnel Public - Michigan

Michigan Cities to Benefit by Personnel Service

Michigan cities desirous of using the merit system for employing personnel but hitherto unable to do so because of the cost of its installation, are being given the opportunity through aid supplied by the Michigan Municipal League, the state association of municipalities.

As a demonstration of what can be accomplished under varying conditions, the League has arranged for Public Administration Service, governmental consulting and research agency of Chicago, to install model personnel departments in three selected Michigan cities: Flint, Dearborn and Saginaw.

The three cities present three different situations and three different problems in personnel administration, according to Charles F. Yard, of the Public Administration Service staff, who is supervising the installations. Saginaw, without a formal civil service commission, is a city manager city, and the personnel unit will operate directly under the manager. Flint, also a city manager city, has an independent civil service commission with the three members appointed, one each by the city commission, the school board and the hospital board. Dearborn, under one article of its city charter has set up a council-appointed civil service commission with jurisdiction over all employees except policemen and firemen; and under another section of the charter has provided a separate board for the firemen; but policemen are not covered by any civil service provision.

Public Administration Service will design personnel systems to fit these varying conditions, including provisions for competitive examinations, classification and compensation plans, service rating and other similar devices.

As the final phase of this state-wide program, the Michigan Municipal League is organizing a staff of personnel technicians to render continuous operating services on a cost basis to its member cities. Under this plan cities that could not ordinarily afford to maintain staffs of specialists to examine applicants, conduct in-service training programs and perform the many tasks involved in modern personnel administration may pool their resources and obtain these services through the League at a cost within their means.

"This marks the first time that small and medium-sized cities have been able to get 'big city' services," says Mr. Yard. "It is hoped the success of this Michigan program will demonstrate that no city need be without expert personnel work if there is an active, aggressive league of municipalities in the state."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, May 16

Do You Know How to Talk Housing?

New terms for the dictionary that relate to housing, as they have come into existence the past few years, are listed in a sample glossary in the Housing Officials' Yearbook, issued by the National Association of Housing Officials. The glossary, which contains thirty selected housing terms in addition to a key to the "agency alphabet," is regarded as "preliminary" to a future compilation of terms in the fields of legislation, administration, finance, construction, design and housing management.

Among terms and their definitions are these:

Blighted Area--An area in which deteriorating forces have obviously reduced economic and social values to such a degree that widespread rehabilitation is necessary to forestall the development of an actual slum condition.

Slum--An area in which predominate dwellings that either because of dilapidation, obsolescence, overcrowding, poor arrangement or design, lack of ventilation, light or sanitary facilities, or a combination of these factors, are detrimental to the safety, health, morals and comfort of the inhabitants thereof.

Slum Clearance--The removal of undesirable structures from a slum constituted either of a large contiguous area or of single parcels.

Slum Reclamation--The re-use of a slum area whereby it is changed from a neighborhood and community liability to an asset.

Dwelling Unit--Any room, or group of rooms, designed as the living quarters of one family or household, equipped with cooking and toilet facilities, and having an independent entrance to a public hall, or one directly to the outside. Sometimes referred to as house, suite, apartment, or family accommodation.

Strip Kitchens--Kitchen equipment arranged in a recess or alcove usually adjoining a living-room, from which it may be separated by doors when not in use.

Decentralization--Systematic distribution of population, industry, and commerce over a large area from an area in which they have been centered.

Satellite Town--A subordinate center in a metropolitan area, having an independent political entity and social and economic life, but maintaining active contact with the central city for its larger business and cultural activities.

Dormitory Town--A satellite community devoted primarily to residential and related activities and not containing the places of employment of the majority of its citizens.

Allotment or Allocation (of Funds)--A sum of money earmarked or tentatively set aside for a given project or use without being actually appropriated or contracted.

(MORE)

Grant--An outright, non-repayable contribution of money, service, or property.

Housing Subsidy--Any contribution of real property, services, material, or funds which appreciably lowers the resulting charge to occupants of a project below that which would have to be charged if the same project received only such assistance as is accorded to usual private housing undertakings built either under or independent of special government regulation.

Low-Cost or Low-Rent--Often interchangeable terms indicating small charge to the occupant for the housing supplied; not necessarily denoting a low capital cost of the housing itself.

Since it requires more than one organization's arbitrary definitions of housing terms to make an "official" glossary, the National Association of Housing Officials points out that it is presenting only a few terms now. It hopes, however, that current study of further definitions by the government housing agencies and others will result in unanimity of opinion sufficient to warrant the publication of a larger and more authentic glossary later in the year.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, May 18

C.M.A. LIBRARY
MAY 18 1936
P. W.

American Public Welfare Association in 1936 Conference

Current developments in social security and unemployment relief legislation as they concern the administrators of public welfare departments keynote the annual conference of the American Public Welfare Association, which will take place May 22-23, in Atlantic City, N.J. The meeting is being held just prior to the National Conference of Social Work, scheduled for May 25-30, during which time the American Public Welfare Association will hold joint sessions with other national social work agencies.

The 1936 meeting is viewed by Fred K. Hoehler, director of the Association, as of particular importance "because it will give an early opportunity for local and state public welfare administrators to exchange ideas on the many new problems raised for them by the national and state social security acts, and at the same time to secure advice and counsel from those at the national administrative level."

All the various aspects of the social security program will be discussed. On the first day Frank Bane, executive director of the Social Security Board, and former director of the American Public Welfare Association, will talk on recent developments; Jane M. Hoey, director of the Bureau of Public Assistance, and Dr. Helen Jeter, of the Bureau of Research and Statistics, of the Social Security Board, will speak on the administration of public assistance. Child welfare aspects of the social security program will be discussed by Katharine F. Lenroot, chief of the U.S. Children's Bureau, which is administering this work; by Dr. Martha M. Eliot, assistant chief of the Children's Bureau; and by Mary Irene Atkinson, director of the Child Welfare Division, and Emma O. Lundberg, assistant director.

Securing the proper personnel to administer public welfare will be discussed by Leonard D. White, commissioner of the U.S. Civil Service Commission, and by Charles H. Bland, chairman of the Canadian Civil Service Commission.

The second day's sessions will have unemployment relief as a general topic. Speakers will be Edith Abbott, dean of the School of Social Service Administration of the University of Chicago; Neville Miller, mayor of Louisville, Ky.; and Josephine C. Brown, administrative assistant of the WPA. A session on the administration of unemployment compensation laws will be addressed by R. Gordon Wagenet, director of the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation of the Social Security Board, and Herman Feldman, professor of industrial relations, of Dartmouth College.

Discussion groups on parole and probation in public welfare and public welfare and law enforcement will have as leaders Sanford Bates, Director of the U.S.Bureau of Prisons, and Justin Miller, chairman of the Attorney General's Committee on Crime.The dinner closing the two-day conference will be presided over by Mrs.Blanche L.LaDu, president of both the American Public Welfare Association and the American Prison Association. Josephine Roche, assistant secretary of the treasury, will be a speaker.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, May 19

South Bend Takes Traffic in Hand

South Bend, Ind. will have the first accident prevention bureau to be installed by the newly organized Safety Division of the International Association of Chiefs of Police established by grant of a $15,000 fund from the automotive industries.

As described in the May issue of the Police Chiefs' News Letter, the South Bend bureau will be composed of personnel selected from the police department with the aid of adaptability tests. The thirty men selected are being given ten days' intensive training in accident investigation, learning the technique perfected by Lieut. Frank Kreml, head of the police chiefs' traffic training program and director of the Public Safety Institute at Purdue University. In addition, a record system, including standard accident report forms, will be set up, and a special office personnel trained in its use and interpretation.

At the same time, South Bend officials are planning, with the aid of the newly formed Civic Safety Council, to modernize completely the traffic system and equipment. The City Council has approved an appropriation to be used in conducting a traffic survey with the aid of WPA workers.

Additional improvements contemplated in the city's traffic situation include the laning of streets, revision of timing of traffic lights and standardization of the method of mounting and color system; a parking survey, and the adoption of a model municipal traffic ordinance.

Assistance in the organization of the Civic Safety Council and development of the new traffic program has been given by the Harvard Bureau for Street Traffic Research, the National Safety Council and the Indiana State Police.

Birmingham, Ala. police are organizing a similar special detail, trained in every phase of traffic law, which will be assigned to make scientific investigations of all traffic accidents. Louisville, Ky., which established an accident prevention section of police last July, reports that traffic fatalities have been reduced nearly 40 per cent.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, May 20

Taxation - Conflicting

New York Tax Commission Advises:

Conflicting tax statutes, growing in number since the depression-bred need for new revenue, want immediate attention if our multiple revenue systems are to work efficiently in the future, according to the New York State Tax Commission. Proposals of the Interstate Commission on Conflicting Taxation are quoted as possible guides to solution in the Tax Commission's annual report, issued by Mark Graves, president. The various alternatives include:

1. Centralization: Complete federal administration of certain of the taxes, coupled with federal grants-in-aid to the states, or with distribution of a percentage of the revenue to the states, or with supplemental levies by the states.

2. Federal credits: In cases where both the federal government and the states impose similar taxes, amounts paid as state taxes would be allowed as offsets against the federal tax bill, up to a specified percentage.

3. Segregation: A complete or partial division of the tax field through the assignment of certain types of taxes exclusively to the federal government and others to the states.

4. Intergovernmental comity: Cooperation effected through interstate reciprocity, promotion of uniform state laws and administrative methods, and interstate agreements and compacts.

Merits and demerits of the proposals are discussed by the New York Tax Commission, which concludes that "whatever proposals may be made to provide for coordination of the revenue systems, some consideration must be given therein to the constitutional questions involved."

"The Supreme Court," the Commission comments, "may determine tax controversies when there has been a violation of the federal or state constitution, but it has no authority to reduce or nullify taxes which have been imposed in pursuance of the taxing power reserved to the states or granted to the federal government."

This has led to the development of a twilight zone--an indefinable area--in which the federal government has no jurisdiction, and in which the several state sovereignties function independently and without relation to each other, and are, therefore, inadequate to deal with the problems arising therein. It is in matters of this kind, the Commission points out, that quasi-public agencies like the General Assembly of the Council of State Governments and its Interstate Commission on Conflicting Taxation can render service.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, May 21

Surpluses: Profit or Loss?

This is the open season for cities to make annual reports to taxpayers. Some of the "fortunate" ones are featuring year-end surpluses, which are pointed to as proofs of good management. But a surplus is not always what it seems, comments an editorial in the current issue of Public Management, official magazine of the International City Managers' Association.

"Granted that a surplus is a term to conjure with in these days of deficits and more and bigger deficits," says the editorial, "still one cannot help wondering what large dividends this surplus might have yielded if wisely invested in a little more community service."

If the discriminating reader of the public report turns from the surplus item to find that the infant mortality rate is 96 per 1,000 births instead of 59.9 (the 1934 average for the U.S.) he ought to consider whether the surplus is evidence of economical administration or proof of a lack of appreciation of the community's social needs. The same is true if the auto accident rate is higher than it is in other cities with comparable conditions. Or if the fire losses and crime rate are unduly high.

In other words, the editorial concludes, "the real cost of city government is a combination of the excess or unnecessary cost resulting from bad government plus the cost that results from a lack of government participation in particular activities. On the side of bad government these excess costs may include such items as having inexperienced and incompetent administrative officials, lax contract procedure, loose budgeting practices, and poor departmental organization. But equally, on the side of inadequate government, excess costs may be concealed in higher rates for fire and burglary insurance, increased expenditures for crime detection, and the incalculable losses from infant and adult mortality."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, May 22

Studying on the Job

One more indication that public employees are making an effort to secure the special training which they need to perform their duties efficiently is reported from the city of Baltimore.

Last fall a class of instruction was organized in the Bureau of Control and Accounts of this city. Since that time employees of the bureau have been meeting once a week, after working hours, to study the operations of their bureau in relation to other departments of the city government.

The Bureau of Control and Accounts is the keystone of the city's general accounting system. This bureau produces each month income and expense statements covering all departments of the city government in detail, and once a year a comprehensive balance sheet reflecting all transactions and accounts and covering all current and fixed assets and liabilities.

The bureau's class of instruction is conducted under the supervision of Herbert Fallin, who is head of the accounting system and budget director of the city. Instructors are heads of the various city departments. Attendance is purely voluntary. The class has been so successful that consideration is being given to extending the plan to other divisions of the city government.

Mr. Fallin says of the undertaking: "Such a manifestation of interest in one's job, together with the eagerness to learn what the other fellow's duties are, is most unique and commendable in any organization, whether public or private."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, May 23

Intergovernmental Arrangements

Independent statehood for metropolitan regions and consolidation of counties on a grand scale as yet may be hardly more than figments of the political scientist's imagination, but the depression has hastened the invention of many other devices for integrating governmental units to save money and bring about efficiency.

Norman N. Gill, University of Chicago social scientist, lists several hundred cases of such intergovernmental cooperation in The 1936 Municipal Year Book, published by the International City Managers' Association. They occur in nearly every department of government: finance and personnel, fire protection, police administration, public welfare, public health, recreation, libraries, education, public works.

In the field of finance and personnel Mr. Gill notes as a unique arrangement the plan of the Los Angeles metropolitan area whereby 35 incorporated municipalities have abandoned local tax assessing, delegating that function by contract to the county tax assessor's office. Cooperation in the field of purchasing is found in a new form in the Cincinnati area, where the purchasing agents of the city, county, school board, university, and public library have formed the Coordinated Purchasing Committee, to take advantage of the benefits of joint buying of supplies and equipment.

Fire protection went on a cooperative basis in Ohio in 1935, when that state provided that any county or township might enter into a contract with any city, village, or town for the use of its fire apparatus upon mutually agreeable terms, usually on the basis of a stipulated price for each call or run. Similar legislation has been enacted in recent years in California, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, New York and Wisconsin.

Water supply systems on a cooperative basis are quite common among governmental units, and combined city-county or multi-county sewage disposal systems are growing in number. Probably the first municipal power district in the country, however, was organized in 1935 in Wisconsin, when Polk and Burnett counties voted to create an inter-county municipal power district for their 17 towns and 4 villages.

Mr. Gill cites as "probably the most spectacular instance of intergovernmental cooperation in recent years" the compact completed in January, 1936, between the city of New York and the state of California with reference to the marketing of artichokes. This grew out of Mayor LaGuardia's attack on the artichoke racket in New York. Under terms of the state-city compact which resulted California and New York City will exchange information regarding conditions and developments in the artichoke market for the purpose of preventing fraud, exploitation, and other unfair practices in the distribution of this food.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

ST. LIBRARY

Release: Monday, May 25

To Keep Public Welfare Administration on a Merit Basis

A national steering committee which will direct community education to the need for merit appointments to administrative positions in the public welfare field, and which will train staff members to meet the high professional requirements of welfare administration, is soon to be organized by the American Public Welfare Association. This announcement was made at the sixth annual meeting of the association which was held last week (May 22-23) at Atlantic City, N. J.

The national wide education and training program has been made possible by a grant of funds from a private agency, according to Fred K. Hoehler, director of the American Public Welfare Association. It will be administered by Mrs. Blanche L. LaDu, president of the American Public Welfare Association, who will act in the capacity of an assistant director of the association.

In summing up the activities of his association for the past year Mr. Hoehler reported that "the most important single problem in the public welfare field has been that of personnel." State and local welfare agencies, greatly enlarged by the administrative demands of the various sections of the Federal Social Security Act, present a fruitful field for the political spoilsman, Mr. Hoehler reported. The new education and training program has been designed, he continued, to keep the spoilsman from getting a foothold in this enlarged field of public administration, and to insure that the newer welfare activities will be administered by competent personnel.

"An arrangement is being worked out for more effective and sympathetic placement among workers, with and from public agencies," said Mr. Hoehler. "This may take the form of a special worker assigned from the American Public Welfare Association staff to serve with the Joint Vocational Service, or some more direct service may be offered from our headquarters. This staff member will have additional duties in personnel studies and control." The details of the whole program, Mr. Hoehler explained, will be worked out with the cooperation of the Social Security Board, Children's Bureau and other interested groups.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, May 26

Defining a Housing Subsidy

Ambiguities in housing terminology are assailed by Coleman Woodbury, director of the National Association of Housing Officials, in a bulletin recently issued to members of his association. "Rent subsidy", relatively a new phrase, has become, he finds, the leader among the loosely used housing terms, which include "slum clearance", "blighted areas", and "low-cost housing." Mr. Woodbury comments that at the Senate hearings on the Wagner-Ellenbogen Housing Bill the phrase, "rent subsidy", was used "with at least four different meanings, one witness using it with two quite different meansings within a period of not more than fifteen minutes."

Disclaiming to be a "word-chopper by inclination or training," Mr. Woodbury nevertheless believes that some attempt must be made to define the chief kinds of subsidy before the confusion becomes so great that "many persons will throw up their hands in despair or disgust." These definitions of subsidy do not have to be made out of whole cloth, he adds. "The problem is largely to keep the terms in accord with the established differences in housing policy and practice." On this basis he defines the seven kinds of "subsidy" now generally discussed.

Capital Grants. This subsidy is simply a write-off of a portion of the capital cost of a housing development. Used by PWA and practiced to a limited extent in European countries.

Annual Grants. Contractual yearly payments for a specified period of time made by a governmental agency to supplement the housing revenue from rentals. Predominant method in England.

Interest Subsidies. Funds for housing purposes advanced by a governmental agency at interest rates lower than the cost of the capital plus the cost of making the loan. Common in Continental European countries.

Tax Exemption. Relief of some types of housing from all or part of certain tax levies to which they would normally be subject.

Differential Renting. (Up to the present, experimented with to a very limited extent in England). Here rentals charged each family in the subsidized housing are determined according to a definite schedule by the family's income and size: the lower the income and the larger the family, the lower the rent. Deficits are paid from the pool of the annual grants made by the central and local governments.

Rent Subsidy: This term might well be confined to the practice of paying annual deficits resulting from the rehousing of low-income families by public or semi-public agencies. It is different from the annual grant or subsidy because the amount of the governmental contributions is not definitely fixed in advance. Used in Holland.

Relief Subsidies: Determination by governmental agency, upon investigation of individual family incomes, of payment that should be made to a family in order to enable it to pay sufficient rent to obtain housing which meets certain agreed-upon standards. Advocates of this kind of individual "case-work" subsidy usually are not sympathetic to building of low-rent housing by public or semi-public agencies. This type of subsidy has not been tried on any considerable scale in this country or in Europe.

--T H E R E IS A N O T H E R R E L E A S E ON THE N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, May 27

Public Works Engineers' "School for Administration"

A new kind of "school" for the men who build and manage the streets, bridges, sewers, water systems and other community facilities has been tried and found so successful as to result in plans for repetition.

The "school", held as a three-day conference at New York University earlier this month, was designed to acquaint public works engineers with problems of administration, on the theory that administration is as much a part of the public works job as knowing how to design and build a city's sewers. Sponsors of the conference were New York University's College of Engineering and Division of Public Administration and the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials.

To attend the ten lectures which comprised the conference came heads of public works department bureaus, WPA and PWA engineers, and college professors of engineering, all of them from New York City and nearby towns. They heard two lectures on public works finance, which acquainted them with such subjects as sewer rental laws, street assessments, underwriting bonds, and the economics of grants-in-aid. In a session on procurement practices in public works, lectures by the New York City Commissioner of Purchase and a governmental consultant gave them insight into the purchasing problems and approved purchasing methods for cities of small, medium and large size. Intercommunity problems, such as flood control, power development and regional planning, were presented in another session, with suggestions as to possibilities of their cooperative solution. Two lectures on planning for public works construction and the personnel problems of public works closed the series.

"The course was not designed as further training for these municipal engineers in the prosecution of their engineering duties," comments Frank W. Herring, executive director of the Joint Secretariat of the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials. "Those who attended were presumably well qualified to carry out the technical responsibilities of their present posts. As engineers, however, they desire broadened knowledge about the administrative aspects of the public works field. Engineering knowledge plus familiarity with the subject of public management represents an invaluable combination in the service of the modern community."

It is planned to repeat the New York school next year and the two associations are considering sponsoring similar conferences in other parts of the country also.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, May 28

State Support of Schools on Increase

Support of the public schools from state revenue, rather than from local government funds, is indicated as an increasing trend throughout the country by a recent report of the U. S. Office of Education.

Revenue receipts by sources for 1929-30 are compared with those for 1933-34. The figures show that in 32 states, state support of schools has increased during the last two years, in 10 states by 10 per cent or more.

The largest increases have been in the cases of: California, where schools during 1933-34 derived 48.7 per cent of their support from the state, as compared with 25.5 per cent in 1929-30; Indiana, where state support rose from 5.2 per cent to 27.0 per cent; North Carolina, which reported a rise from 19.5 per cent to 61.5 per cent; Ohio, from 3.7 per cent to 15.3 per cent; Oklahoma, from 10.1 to 29.4 per cent; Tennessee, from 23.7 to 42.5 per cent; Texas, from 38.9 to 51.5 per cent; and West Virginia, from 7.9 to 49.1 per cent.

In the entire country state grants to schools have increased from 17.2 per cent to 23.4 per cent during the period covered.

Three states--Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi--during 1933 and 1934 received 10 per cent or more of their school funds from the federal government. Alabama and Georgia have, as a partial consequence, decreased state school appropriations, in each case by about 5 per cent; but Mississippi's state school appropriation has increased, by 5 per cent.

"Use of state funds for support of the schools has been advocated by educators for a number of years," comments Henry W. Toll, executive director of the Council of State Governments. "It was claimed to be the only way in which educational opportunities might be equalized. The acute effect of tax delinquencies, unemployment, decreased property values and tax limitations, which has rendered many localities incapable of school support, makes state support more important than ever before."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, May 29

State Administrative Supervision of Local Finance

State administrative supervision of local financial processes, principally those of accounting, auditing, reporting, and budgeting, has increased during the past year, according to Wylie Kilpatrick, research technician of the National Resources Committee who contributes a chapter on this subject to the 1936 Municipal Year Book, published by the International City Managers' Association. "Supervision," Mr. Kilpatrick finds, is but a "catch-all phrase used to describe indiscriminately a variety of types, each with its own process, purpose, and technique." To understand the real situation, he adds, one must "get behind this phrase to an identification and explanation of the main types of supervision."

In accounting procedures the state installs or recommends accounts for municipalities in 28 states and for counties in 36 states. "So summary a statement, however," says Mr. Kilpatrick, "conceals the state's relation to local units. That relation entails compulsory installation of county accounts in 23 states and of municipal accounts in only seven states; otherwise the accounts are recommended, or are installed upon local request, or refer merely to selected local offices." Instead of an early attempt to install "over-night" complete record systems in all municipalities, supervisory agencies, Mr. Kilpatrick explained, now resort more frequently to educative methods "in an endeavor to raise standards according to the needs and capacities of individual units."

With respect to auditing, the state examines municipal records in 32 states, the audit applying regularly to all municipalities in nine states. In 23 states the audit applies only to certain units, or the municipal accounts are audited by licensed private accountants or by the state upon local request or by state decision. Of the 40 states auditing counties, the examination periodically refers to all units in 26 states, and to selected units or officers, or on request, in 14 states. The most significant development, Mr. Kilpatrick points out, is two-fold: "the drafting of audit specifications to insure genuine examinations, and the registration of competent private accounts to audit accounts according to state specifications."

Mr. Kilpatrick finds that "reporting is characterized by a higher degree of uniformity than any other process." Of the 33 states requiring municipalities to file reports, all municipalities are referred to in 24 states; and of the 38 states calling for county reports, 32 collect or plan to collect reports from all counties.

Budgets are required by statute or record systems in 31 states for municipalities, and in 34 states for counties, the prescriptions being "fairly uniform." In only seven states for municipalities and only five for counties are the prescriptions "partial or fragmentary." State agencies in 21 states draft municipal budget forms, applicable to all municipalities in 11 states and contained in record systems or recommended in 10 states. Greater uniformity exists in the counties, where budget forms are prescribed completely in 24 of the 28 states drafting county forms.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, May 30

Personnel Policy with an Employee Voice

Industry has long recognized the necessity of training foremen to deal with the employees in their charge--governmental agencies can profitably copy this technique in training personnel supervisors.

In support of this contention, the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada today issued a pamphlet which tells the story of supervisory training in the Tennessee Valley Authority, where new techniques of personnel administration have been carried out successfully. Gordon R. Clapp, director of personnel of the TVA, is author of the pamphlet.

One of the biggest jobs that confronts modern personnel administrators, according to Mr. Clapp, is to show employees that the personnel agency is not functioning as an "efficiency expert," and to make department heads and managers feel that their authority is not being interfered with. The TVA has attempted to accomplish this end by "making the personnel function an integral part of the daily work of supervisors and employees alike, whose problems of relationships comprise the justification for a centralized personnel agency."

From the beginning of the TVA, all employees were given free opportunity to suggest working relationships. During the first year of the TVA, while a 16,000-man payroll was being built up, there was little time to submit policies and regulations to employees and supervisors for criticism and constructive assistance, and the traditional system of recruitment, selection, placement and classification was more or less followed. At the end of that time, however, a tentative employee-relationship policy was submitted to employees of the TVA, who suggested a number of changes. The TVA Board finally adopted this joint product of management and employees as the official "Employee Relationship" policy of the organization.

These are among unusual characteristics of the policy: The Personnel Division of the whole TVA, while retaining definite control of all matters relating to employment, job classification and establishing allocation of positions in wage and salary grades, in all other matters is decentralizing its functions in order to make them part of the responsibility of all employees. The entire field of employee organization and representation, for example, is left to the employees themselves. Disputes of any kind between an employee and the management are to be handled by the employee or his representative through established supervisory channels, up to and including the chief supervisory office.

Two major purposes are served by such a personnel policy, according to Mr. Clapp. "In the first place, there is a real and vital contribution made by employees of all ranks through channels of responsibility; second, policies and regulations adopted as a result of these conferences are not only better than they would have been had the Personnel Division formulated them without the help of those who operate under the regulations, but enforcement of the policies and regulations is assured because they are the joint product of those responsible for their application and those who are affected by them. Thus the principle of democratic home rule finds its way into personnel administration."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936

Release: Monday, June 1

Assessors Need Maps

When assessors in cities and counties throughout the United States do not possess adequate maps to aid them in their work, it is almost certain that many parcels of real estate are not being assessed, says Albert W. Noonan, technical director of the National Association of Assessing Officers.

Because real estate is a commodity that is always within view, and cannot be lost, hidden, destroyed or stolen, it is almost universally believed that none of it escapes taxation. This is not the case, according to Mr. Noonan. "Unless the assessor has good maps showing each parcel and its location, he relies mainly on his memory to insure the assessment of all taxable land. And it is astounding how faulty memories can be."

As an example Mr. Noonan relates a recent experience of several Connecticut municipalities. An aerial mapping conern was employed to furnish aerial tax maps in 13 towns of the state. After the work was completed and the maps were used by the assessors, it was found that in each town "the number of real estate parcels previously left off the assessment rolls was almost unbelievable." In no case were there fewer than 100, and in one case over 3,000 had been omitted. All of the cities were comparatively small.

Every citizen has a common interest in insisting that his share of the tax burden be an equitable portion of the whole, comments Mr. Noonan. He should insist that all taxable property be correctly listed and valued. To reach this goal he must further insist on two prime essentials, that the assessing officer be selected on the basis of merit, and be provided with the necessary tools to do the job well. Adequate maps, he emphasizes, are among the indispensable tools.

It is probable that the initial expense of securing a good set of tax maps will appear too high to be justified by many appropriating bodies, he adds, but investigations and reassessment projects are constantly revealing the fact that this policy is a very short-sighted, "penny-wise, pound foolish" economy. The loss through unlisted property and the inevitable dissatisfaction of the taxpayers who are caught greatly outweigh the benefits from the few dollars saved.

The Rhode Island Commission on Ways and Means in its latest report to the governor recommended that the state either assist smaller jurisdictions to obtain adequate maps, or furnish them outright when necessary.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936

Release: Tuesday, June 2

Propose Examinations for Examiners

Civil service administrators, engaged in testing and labeling the performance of candidates for public jobs, are considering surveying themselves as well, in an endeavor to set up standards for measuring their own effectiveness.

At the recent meeting in Chicago of the Central Regional Conference of the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada a resolution was passed recommending that a study be made of the advisability of establishing standards for personnel agencies and their staff members.

Those attending the conference agreed that the setting up of such standards is necessary so that legislatures, governors, mayors and other appointing authorities may have some yardstick for measuring the qualifications of those who are to engage in the administration of civil service laws. Definite standards, it was pointed out, will furnish a goal to those who are preparing for public personnel administration activities and will indicate to them just what capabilities they must have if they are to be successful in such jobs.

"Examiners, personnel administrators, and technicians must emerge from the medicine-man stage to a scientific medical stage," says G. Lyle Belsley, executive director of the Civil Service Assembly. "They have heretofore devoted most of their attention to establishing classification plans and deciding qualifications for every sort of job in the public service, but have not yet given sufficient attention to developing standards for their own profession and to measuring their own effectiveness."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, June 3

State Reporting Needs Improvement

State governments need a general "jacking up" in their methods of reporting affairs to citizens, says Prof. Phillips Bradley, in the June issue of State Government, magazine of the Council of State Governments. Inadequate reporting is responsible for some of the citizen dis-interest in government, he believes.

Prof. Bradley, a member of the political science faculty of Amherst College, has examined all the year books that come off state presses. Every state, he points out, issues some form of general legislative manual, and most of them publish one or more abbreviated forms of legislative aids, which include such items as lists of legislative and executive personnel, committee assignments,and legislative rules. Nearly one-third of the states also publish more general "blue books" which contain further material relating to the legislative and executive branches of government: biographies of state officials, election statistics, financial and budgetary information, and a variety of historical, civic and informational matter.

But, says Prof. Bradley, only a few of the manuals provide really adequate biographical data. Most of the information is autobiographical, "tending to become laudatory, indefinite and discursive." Only a few of the manuals, he continues, include really "interpretive accounts of departmental performance of functional activities. Financial studies, if they are not so detailed as to be labyrinthian, tend to be budget abstracts so general as to be valueless as yardsticks of costs and services." Those manuals which include any data in the field of local government, he adds, usually limit them to personnel lists. Discussion of functions, legal powers, and state-local relationships are lacking.

Among the items Prof. Bradley would include in an improved legislative guide-book are:

Information about the legislature: its membership, the appointive legislative personnel, the committee organization, the rules of legislative procedure, and brief biographies of legislators, indicating the public and semi-public offices held.

A break-down of current election statistics. (Only nine states customarily record any election statistics broken down for units below cities and towns. In general, statistics of both primary and general elections are in complete confusion as to the units of government, offices reported upon, and the treatment of candidates of minor parties.)

Records of executive and administrative activity. A short and summary statement of organization of the state's line and staff services, to enable year-to-year comparison of the activities of the state.

A simplified and interpretive record of the costs and revenues of the state government.

A brief description of the organization and personnel of local government, especially those functions and agencies of administration in which the state government participates or which it controls.

Prof. Bradley adds that the preparation of adequate and standard manuals would be made easier if it were recognized as a function of a single state official.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936

Release: Thursday, June 4

Laws to Enable Planning -

Seven kinds of enabling acts on planning, represented in a total of nearly 200 passed laws by the 48 states within the past dozen years, make it possible for practically every political unit to enter into some form of this governmental activity, according to a compilation released by the American Society of Planning Officials.

A perfect record of 48 enabling acts exists for city zoning. City planning enabling legislation is found in 38 states, although five provide for local legislation. State planning boards are permanent in 33 states, and governors' boards or commissions in 13 more. Twenty states allow county planning and 22 grant official status to regional planning by counties or metropolitan areas. County zoning is lowest on the list. Only 10 states have seen fit to follow the example of Wisconsin, which in 1927 passed an act permitting this control.

The "shortage" of county zoning enabling legislation is the most serious on the record, according to Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials. Land use is a primary concern of state planning, Mr. Blucher points out, and county zoning is a decidedly important tool in controlling land use.

Its importance is being borne out in Wisconsin, he comments. During the past two years about five million acres of land in 20 northern counties of this state have been made restricted land-use areas--for either forestry or recreation--by zoning ordinances. In every one of the counties, however, the area left unrestricted is far greater than the area used for farming in 1930.

Besides Wisconsin, the states of California, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Tennessee and Washington have county zoning enabling acts, while Georgia, Minnesota and Virginia have passed special laws for certain counties. California counties, however, are the only ones that have begun to make much use of the enabling law. Orange County, California, recently adopted a novel zoning law which divides the county into general districts but which permits more detailed and intensive zoning of any section desiring it, within the structure of the general ordinance.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 1936
Release: Friday, June 5

Leg

"Prep" Study of Legislation

Virginia and Kentucky have joined those states whose citizens believe that laboratory tests of proposed legislation should be made before legislative sessions open. Through creation of an Advisory Legislative Council, these two states have followed the lead of Kansas, Michigan and Wisconsin.

According to State Government, official publication of the Council of State Governments, the Virginia Council is "to make an investigation and study of any matter or question which may be referred to it by the General Assembly, and to submit a report...at least thirty days prior to the next regular session of the General Assembly...," and to furnish the same service to the governor whenever it is requested. Seven members, all of whom are to be appointed by the governor, make up the council, and five of them must be members of the General Assembly.

Kentucky's newly created Legislative Council, according to State Government, is almost identical in composition to a Commission on Interstate Cooperation, and represents the state in the Council of State Governments. In addition to the five senators, five representatives and five administrative officers making up the Council, the governor, lieutenant-governor and speaker of the house are ex officio members.

Pioneer honors among the legislative councils go to Wisconsin's Executive Council, which was established in 1931. From an original membership of twenty, this Council was reduced to twelve in 1933--three senators, three assemblymen, and six private citizens. Michigan has had a nine-man legislative council for almost three years, and Colorado lawmakers are served by a Committee on Interim Legislative Committees composed of five high state officials. The Kansas Legislative Council, commonly considered the outstanding example of this comparative innovation, is also three years old.

--T H E R E IS A N O T H E R R E L E A S E ON THE N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARINGGHOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 1936
Release: Saturday, June 6

Distribution of State Gasoline Tax

Among the states that have laws providing for state-administered locally shared taxes on gasoline, Illinois returns to its local communities a larger proportion of the tax it imposes than does any other state; Arkansas returns the smallest proportion. According to an analysis of the distribution of state gasoline taxes contained in the 1936 Municipal Year Book issued by the International City Managers' Association, the state of Illinois retains but one-third of the taxes it collects, whereas local government units in Arkansas receive but 7.7 per cent.

Twenty-three of the 29 states sharing this source of revenue return less than 50 per cent to the localities. "The gasoline tax," the analysis finds, "is apparently now being looked upon primarily as a state tax, and local distribution is a secondary consideration. Fifteen of the states direct specifically that all or a part of the tax returned must be spent on roads. This emphasises the benefit theory of taxation as the most important factor in this sphere of taxation. At the same time it fixes more definitely the control of the state not only over the tax itself but also over the entire road system of the state."

The following facts are taken from the yearbook analysis, which was made by Raymond Uhl and Anthony Vincent Shea, Jr., of the University of Virginia:

Arkansas, Arizona and Virginia distribute the gasoline tax on the basis of the amount of tax collected within the county. However, in Virginia only those counties not in the secondary state road system receive any portion of the tax.

Alabama is the only state that distributes the tax to the counties on the basis of equality. New Jersey, Ohio, and Tennessee have combined this principle with other considerations such as area, population, road mileage, road debt, and the number of vehicles in any given municipality.

Iowa distributes the gasoline tax on the basis of area; Oklahoma half on the basis of area and half on population; Florida adds mileage as a factor; and Mississippi adds as a principle the number of registered motor vehicles.

Wyoming distributes 25 per cent of the tax to the counties on the basis of population; whereas Florida, Mississippi, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Tennessee use population in combination with other factors. In California and Indiana, distribution to municipalities is based entirely on population, while distribution to counties is made on other bases.

Distribution on the basis of highway mileage is made to counties in Colorado, Georgia, and New York, and to other local units following other principles. Florida, Michigan, Indiana, and New Jersey combine the mileage principle with other factors.

California, Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota, and South Carolina grant counties their share of the gasoline tax on the basis of motor-car registration, this being the sole basis in the two last-named states.

Assessed valuation is used as a basis for distribution in Oregon and Washington, in Oregon the distribution being to counties and in Washington to municipalities.

In Pennsylvania and Washington distribution is made to the counties on a fixed statutory basis. Maryland and Louisiana make only a limited distribution of gasoline taxes and in each case it is on a statutory basis.

JOINT REFERENCE
LIBRARY

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936

Release: Monday, June 8

Will the Merit System be in Party Platforms?

Platform planks recommending immediate abolition of the spoils system and establishment of the merit system of public service personnel administration in federal, state, and local offices will be sought by the National League of Women Voters from both major political parties at their forthcoming national conventions. Approximately 250,000 voters in 47 states and the District of Columbia have signed petition cards asking Democrats and Republicans alike for such action.

"For the first time in its history," says the current News Letter of the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada, "the League is limiting its recommendations for the national party platforms to one plank, which would commit the political organizations to specific programs of legislation such as placing under the civil service laws the first-, second-, and third-class postmasters, deputy collectors of internal revenue, and United States marshals."

Summarized, the League's proposed plank also sets forth:

"The patronage system in public service is a party liability and weakens faith in government;

"We therefore pledge ourselves to abolish the spoils system and to establish the merit system in federal, state, and local offices;

"We advocate extension of the merit system by transferring exempt positions to the classified service, with no further exemptions; the strengthening of laws and regulations affecting conditions of employment, such as recruitment, educational requirements, retention, promotion, dismissal, and retirement; and repeal of laws discriminatory of marital or economic status or residence against otherwise qualified people."

The step taken by the National League of Women Voters was accompanied, continues the Civil Service Assembly News Letter, by an announcement that the National Federation of Federal Employees would also seek merit planks in both the Republican and Democratic platforms. "In calling for an extension of the merit system to cover all government positions except those of a policy-making nature," says the newsletter, "President Steward of the Federation said that he believed that the conventions will make clear statements on civil service and will probably affirm allegiance of the parties to the principles of the merit system but 'the important responsibility will lie in the execution of the party platform pledge.'"

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Tuesday, June 9

Debts, Municipal - Federal act

A Blow to Distressed Cities

Nullification of the municipal debt readjustment act, known as the Sumners-Wilcox Act, by the United States Supreme Court, leaves "distressed cities at the mercy of minority creditors" who, had the act been held constitutional, would have been compelled to "accept adjustments which are made for the welfare of the public and most of the creditors." By the decision, for the rendering of which "the majority justices must be charged with unwarranted distortion for reading into the statute the provisions which allegedly make it unconstitutional," cities that are financially embarrassed "must forego any relief from an intolerable debt situation, whether or not due to circumstances beyond their control."

Such is the opinion of the editors of Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association, as expressed in its current issue. Though the decision is a sweeping one and a distinct blow to municipalities, according to the editorial, the act had been invoked by less than a hundred municipal corporations, most of which were irrigation or improvement districts.

The act, popularly called the municipal bankruptcy act, was "smitten down," continues the editorial, "despite the voluntary nature of the proceedings provided in the statute, despite the consent freely given by the state of Texas to the proceedings in the case before the court (C.L.Ashton et al., petitioners, v. Cameron County, Texas, Water Improvement District No. 1), and despite the express constitutional power of Congress to 'establish...uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies through the United States,' because it might be extended to involuntary proceedings brought by creditors, thus coercing the sovereign states in the same manner as if their obligations could be taxed by the federal government, and because it might be extended to debts of the states themselves which would be even worse."

It can logically be reasoned, the editorial finds, that "if the majority's analogy between the taxing power and the bankruptcy power in their effect on state sovereignty is good, then this act should be upheld." The editorial points to the fact that "the states repeatedly have been permitted to tax the instrumentalities of the central government with the latter's consent, and vice versa."

Besides robbing distressed municipal corporations of protection against minority creditors, the action of the Supreme Court, the editorial concludes, "has jeopardized the promising development of federal-city relationships at least at the legislative level because of the fantastic fear of the court that the states and the cities as their agents will be 'coerced' even where their consent has been given freely."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Wednesday, June 10

Tax correction - 1

Remedies for Tax Delinquency

Many revenue and financial technicians of the country have specific remedies to offer tax-sick states and municipalities, according to a survey of the tax delinquency problem made by Dr. Paul Studenski, professor of economics at New York University. On the other hand, Dr. Studenski discovered several of the opinion that no solution could be found.

A number of restoratives were proposed to return the various governmental units to a sound tax basis. They include (1) centralization of tax collection in the county for small communities; (2) appointment of tax officers to free them of political influence; (3) quarterly or even monthly collection of taxes; (4) use of private business collection methods; (5) reasonably high, fixed penalties (preferably graduated) and strictly enforced; (6) appointment of tax receivers to manage the income of delinquent properties; (7) mandatory sale of tax liens at the expiration of a specified time; (8) simplification of foreclosure procedure; (9) creation of special tax-arrears departments, divorced from politics; (10) more scientific assessment; (11) development of new revenue to shift some of the tax burden from real estate; (12) publicity to acquaint the taxpayer with the services performed in return for the tax dollar. These twelve recommendations are being appraised as to their relative merits, Dr. Studenski indicated.

The depression was the most frequently given reason for the increase in tax delinquency. A number of those consulted, however, expressed the opinion that it will be necessary to dig deeply into the political, administrative, and fiscal structures of local governments in order to find the real seat of the trouble.

As outstanding weaknesses in the existing tax collection systems those who replied to the survey cited: political tampering with tax law enforcement; lump-sum tax collection; insufficient penalties; laxity of tax-sale law and procedure; over-assessment; and too heavy a tax burden on real estate.

Five hundred nationally known tax and financial experts pooled their opinions in the survey.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Thursday, June 11

Four Means to Interstate Agreement

Sixty-nine interstate compacts have been approved by Congress since 1789, when Virginia and Kentucky made the first one in deciding upon their common boundary, according to State Government, magazine of the Council of State Governments, which, in its current issue, publishes the most up-to-date tabulation made of this means of attaining interstate action. Most of these compacts have involved but two states and have concerned common boundaries, interstate bridges or the uses of interstate waters. Only within the past few years have compacts been extended to include regions of states and more involved problems, such as oil conservation, control of tobacco production, control of crime, and so on. Six widespread states have but recently ratified the oil-conservation compact; states as far apart as Rhode Island and Minnesota, within the year, have ratified a compact for supervision of out-of-state parolees--one provision of a model crime-control law sponsored by the Interstate Commission on Crime.

Interstate compacts represent, however, but one "and probably not the most important" of four formulas for solving those problems "which extend beyond the borders of one state, or which concern all states, and yet do not fall within the enumerated powers of the federal government." The other three are uniform laws, reciprocal laws, and administrative agreements. Attainment of interstate agreement by any of these means, says State Government, is greatly facilitated by the existence of Commissions on Interstate Cooperation, which one-third of the states thus far have created.

The simpler device of passing textually identical statutes in each state does not require congressional consent, as the compacts do, and in this field more than 50 uniform laws, drafted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Legislation, have been adopted by an average of 12 states apiece. Thus far uniform laws have demonstrated their usefulness, says State Government, largely in the field of commercial law, property law, and civil procedure, with some important excursions into domestic relations and public law.

South Dakota's agreement to grant full privileges to police officers of other states which grant similar privileges to her police officers is an example of reciprocal law. Reciprocal provisions can be inserted in a uniform law or can be used in place of a compact. The Supreme Court has never decided whether or not reciprocal legislation requires the consent of Congress.

"Where interstate matters are not of sufficient importance to justify legislative action" the fourth means--administrative arrangements--of securing interstate action is invoked.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Friday, June 12

One City's Plan for Industrial Peace

Toledo, O. now has an official court of arbitration for adjusting industrial disputes. A year's experience with its Plan for Industrial Peace has resulted in a $5,100 appropriation being included in the 1936-37 budget to continue the labor relations body which was established in 1935 with financial aid from the federal government.

Four disastrous strikes were the direct cause for adopting the Plan, according to Edmond Ruffin, director of the Industrial Peace board (which administers the Plan) who writes in Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association. The disputes took place in 1934 and early in 1935, culminating in one that brought the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor to the scene.

Three newspaper editors and several leading public citizens helped set up the Plan for Industrial Peace, which included the formation of a Peace Board composed of an impartial chairman, five representatives of labor, five of management, and eight non-partisan citizens. The Central Labor Union, dominating labor organization in the city, selected the labor representatives. The Chamber of Commerce chose the management representatives. The eight impartial citizens were picked by the Board chairman and included two judges, two attorneys, a rabbi, a Catholic priest, a relief director and a retail merchant.

The Board in itself cannot force either labor or management into any decision. It functions only as a court of last resort, "where cooler minds and impartial thinking are helpful in reaching a satisfactory agreement before strikes or violence occurs."

The Peace Board's effectiveness was proved within the year, Mr. Ruffin writes. Ten labor management disputes, affecting over four thousand workers, were settled through its negotiations before strikes were called. Seven strikes, involving 1,160 employees, were also settled by the Board. Violence has been negligible since the Plan was established, according to Director Ruffin.

Because so many other cities sought aid in setting up similar boards the federal government withdrew its financial support from the Plan in March of this year. Continuation of the Plan was then assured by the city council's appropriation, made in response to a concerted demand from labor unions, industrial executives, civic organizations, private citizens and newspapers.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Saturday, June 13

Employees of the Legislatures

Clerkships, stenographic work and custodial duties for state legislatures provide positions for anywhere from half a dozen to over 200 people in each state, according to a survey of legislative employees just made by the American Legislators' Association.

Information from 43 of the 48 states reveals that only six legislatures, however --Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island--have staffs of permanent employees, receiving annual salaries which range from $500 to $9,000. In all cases except Rhode Island's the employees remain at the capital when the legislature is not in session.

Typical of positions on these permanent payrolls are those found in the Pennsylvania senate, which employs a secretary, chief clerk, assistant clerk, librarian, clerk and stenographer to the president and the president pro tempore, plus a number of other secretaries, stenographers, watchmen and custodians.

Remuneration of employees engaged during session for the other 37 states ranges from $5 to $15 a day for chief employees, $3 to $10 a day for clerks and stenographers, and $2 and up for others. In eight states the chief employees are paid a salary for the entire session, and some of these states follow the same practice for other classes of employees. These salaries range from $450 to $4,000 a session.

"Before making any adverse comment on the number of legislative employees," says Henry W. Toll, executive director of the American Legislators' Association, "critics should remember that state legislatures are performing one of the most important governmental functions in this country, and that a staff of permanent employees can be of important assistance in their work."

JOINT REFERENCE
LIBRARY JUN 12 1936

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Monday, June 15

Associations for the "Business" of Government

Voluntary associations, organizations and agencies are as important a part of the American scene today as they were more than one hundred years ago when the French statesman, Alexis de Tocqueville, wrote: "Whenever at the head of some new undertaking you see the government in France or a man of rank in England, in the United States you will be sure to find an association."

Public Administration Clearing House, Chicago, today published the third edition of its biennial "Directory of Organizations in the Field of Public Administration," which brings together in one volume brief descriptive statements outlining the purposes of more than five hundred national organizations, and lists in addition 1220 state groups, 79 regional organizations, and 87 Canadian ones, like those De Tocqueville had in mind when he wrote this statement.

The "Directory" is limited to those voluntary associations which are concerned with some one or more phases of public administration--the business or operating phase of municipal, county, state and national government. These organizations are composed of public officials, professional and technical men, and private, lay citizens. Through conferences, news letters, magazines, correspondence and personal contacts these groups help public officials solve their administrative difficulties, promote cooperation, foster the development of professional esprit de corps and keep the general public in touch with the problems confronting the public administrators of the country.

The directory is published to help guide public officials and citizens to sources of information, assistance and advice.

Among the thirty-odd organizations which have been formed since the second directory was issued in 1934 are: American Parole Association, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, American Society of Planning Officials, National Association of Assessing Officers, Associated Police Communication Officers.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, June 16

Municipal Liquor Stores

Municipal liquor stores are finding favor in South Dakota. Since 1935, when cities were given the power to own and operate them, 58 stores have been set up, and as far as can be learned, no town which entered the business has discontinued it.

When the League of South Dakota Municipalities recently asked officials in cities and towns operating liquor stores to specify their reasons for favoring municipal sale of liquor they got these answers:

A municipal liquor store is a source of profit and brings greater income to municipalities than do licenses to private operators.

With municipal ownership of stores, the governing body of the municipality has complete control of liquor salesmen within the city, and the council can exert influence to see that the desires of the citizens are met.

The municipally owned store eliminates competition, which, with the desire for profit, frequently results in violations of liquor sale laws.

Law enforcement is better, because all members of the governing board are interested in the success of a municipal store.

Because the margin of profit is smaller in municipal stores than in private stores, liquor prices are lower and the bootlegger finds it more difficult to make a living.

Profits from the municipal stores vary, but generally the price of liquor is from 10 to 20 per cent cheaper than in private stores, according to the reports. Gross profits range from $400 to $15,000 annually, according to the size of the town. Some of the towns plan to make a substantial profit, while others plan to make very little, keeping the price low in order to combat the bootleggers.

So far, sale of liquor in municipal stores in South Dakota, as in Minnesota and Wisconsin, has been limited to small towns and cities. In South Dakota no city of more than 4,000 population has entered into the municipal liquor business.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Wednesday, June 17

Universities Show New Interest in Public Service

Universities and colleges of the country are showing an increasing interest in training people for positions as public employees. Both pre-entry (before-employment) and post-entry (in-service) training courses are being developed by educational agencies throughout the United States, in a number of cases with the cooperation of civil service officials, says the current issue of the Civil Service Assembly News Letter.

Pre-service fellowships have just been announced by the University of Minnesota for the academic year of 1936-37 in order to encourage outstanding university men and women to enter the public administration service. The first year of training will be spent in residence at the university, with a stipend of $650 provided. The second year the student will interne in some governmental department.

Universities of California, Chicago, Cincinnati, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Illinois, Iowa, Leland Stanford, Michigan, New York, Ohio State, Pennsylvania, Princeton, Southern California, Syracuse, Wayne (Detroit) and Wisconsin are among other universities listed in the news letter as giving courses in public administration.

In the post-entry training field, universities are giving courses for non-college as well as college-trained employees. In May, the University of Wisconsin, cooperating with the State Board of Health, held a training course for sewage plant operators. Ohio State University recently concluded a non-college course for police authorities which nearly 50 students attended. The University of Southern California will hold its second annual public business laboratory during the summer. This is a field seminar in public administration, open to both college and non-college individuals. This institution will also hold its eighth annual institute of government this summer. Harvard University announces a summer course on the problems of civil service and personnel management. American University, in Washington, D. C., has announced that courses will be given next year for graduate students in the field of social security administration. A training course for the public service which was started in 1927 at the University of Cincinnati is being continued this year under the same system of cooperative education by which classroom instruction is supplemented by part-time paid work in some public position.

"Civil service commissions and administrators have an unusual opportunity to support the efforts of universities in formulating and conducting practical courses in the field of public administration," says the news letter. "They are in an even more favorable position to encourage the development of in-service training programs for public employees."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Thursday, June 18

State Control Over Local Debt Limits

Though most states have some sort of constitutional or statutory provisions for controlling debt limits of local governments, "there is no way to save local communities from the consequences of their own folly simply by passing more laws and providing more state intervention," says Lane W. Lancaster, professor of political science at the University of Nebraska. In reporting upon state limitations of local indebtedness in The Municipal Year Book of 1936, published by the International City Managers' Association, Professor Lancaster says that "what is most urgently needed is better local administration."

Only 12 state constitutions are "completely silent" on the matter of local debt limitation. Eighteen states do not have constitutional provisions limiting the debt-incurring power of local units, but in six of these the "legislature is specifically permitted to restrict local borrowing powers as an incident to its authority to create such corporations," Professor Lancaster finds.

Practically all the states have "more or less complete" statutory provisions for controlling debt limits, he continues. The chief exceptions are the special act states -- California, Delaware, Maryland and Nevada -- where the practice is to authorize indebtedness in each individual case. Even here, reports Professor Lancaster, certain safeguards are provided. In California, for example, debts in excess of the annual income must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the people, and all debt must be retired in 40 years or less. In Rhode Island, where a limit is specified in the general statutes, the "local practice seems to be to authorize debts by special act."

General conclusions reached by Professor Lancaster are that there is "urgent need for genuinely comprehensive bond laws, free of ambiguities and with as few exceptions as possible;" that there is too little recognition in the law of the "close connection between the wise and expert handling of current finances, on the one hand, and the debt structure of the community on the other;" and that "the law should compel local units to live within their conservatively estimated income and to budget their future capital requirements."

"Something more might well be done," he observes, "to permit local taxpayers to protect their interests against policies dictated by the desire of local office-holders to prolong their official lives. Further, it is of doubtful wisdom to permit local units to go further into debt in order to meet federal grants, without so arranging the 'details' of bond issues as to make the necessary local burden an immediate one."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Friday, June 19

Accepted Assessment Practice

A reform psychology, born of the depression, has focussed public attention on all administrative functions of local government, including that concerned with assessing practice, and has demanded that "public expenditures be explained and justified, that incompetent personnel be discovered and discharged, and that bad practices be corrected," said Albert W. Noonan, technical director of the National Association of Assessing Officers, in addressing the annual meeting of the League of Minnesota Municipalities at Detroit Lakes today.

The assessor was caught in a "vicious crossfire," continued Mr. Noonan, with the owners of property "in terror of personal bankruptcy," on the one side, shooting at him for assessment reductions, and the legislative bodies on the other side, striving to maintain essential municipal functions and at the same time reduce the tax rate. This turned an ordinarily unpopular job into something "approaching a nightmare."

The depression was not without its benefits, however, Mr. Noonan pointed out. It had demonstrated the fact that "not just any stick" could be an assessing officer. On the contrary, the public is beginning to realize that "almost the entire financial structure of local government is erected upon the foundation provided by the work of the assessor."

Greatest security of the assessor from unjustified public attack lies in the adoption of "uniform rules, uniformity of treatment, uniform principles, and uniform procedures, standards applied to all alike," Mr. Noonan said. "The assessor has no control over expenditures," he continued. "He has but one job. It is his duty to spread the tax burden according to the most equitable plan he is capable of creating. If he produces an assessment roll that distributes the tax shares in such a way that each person's share is in proper relationship to every other person's share, he has done what is expected of him, and it is of minor importance that the assessed valuation does not check exactly with sales or private appraisals."

Mr. Noonan said that "a taxpayer can be robbed just as effectively through bad assessment practice as by a thug on the highway. Any time a person pays more than his fair share of the tax burden, he is being robbed, regardless of what the legal appearances may be." An assessment system that relates each piece of property to every other parcel makes "tax chiseling" much more difficult, he added.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, June 20

Better Managed Firecrackers

Municipal fireworks ordinances passed during recent years have reduced the work on July 4 for firemen, doctors and undertakers, but there is still room for much improvement, according to Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association.

On July 5 last year, the American Museum of Safety, with the cooperation of fireworks manufacturers, undertook a nationwide casualty count of celebrants. Results of the survey, which is not yet entirely completed, as published by the National Fire Protection Association, show that at least 30 persons were killed and 7,738 injured in fireworks festivities of 1935. More than two-thirds of the casualties were caused by the common firecracker. The so-called "harmless" sparklers caused 90 casualties and several fatalities.

Approximately half the states and many of the cities and towns of the country have some kind of prohibitive or restrictive fireworks legislation, but many of these laws and regulations are reported ineffective and inadequate.

Municipal ordinances prohibiting the sale and use of fireworks have proved effective over a test-period, according to the National Fire Protection Association. During the five years from 1923 to 1927, Detroit had an average of 46 fires from fireworks each year. In May, 1928, a fireworks ordinance was passed and during the next seven years only six fires were caused by fireworks. Milwaukee firemen for a number of years answered an average of 50 alarms on July 4, and in 1934 fireworks injured 190 persons. The city then passed an anti-fireworks ordinance; last year on July 4 only four alarms were turned in and only five persons were injured.

Most of the city fireworks ordinances are based on the model ordinance of the National Fire Protection Association. State municipal leagues of Minnesota and New York have also issued model ordinances.

Winnetka, Illinois village of 3,000 near Chicago, this year sent out questionnaires to its families, asking them whether they favored continuance of the municipal law prohibiting sale of fireworks, whether they would cooperate for an "accidentless Fourth" by keeping fireworks from their children, and whether they favored a community celebration of the holiday. Four hundred seventy-six of the 500 citizens replying answered "yes" to the first two questions.

T. LIBRARY JUN 19 1936

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, June 22

Housing Officials Discuss Policies

Decentralization of responsibility for the management of federal housing projects either constructed or being built "is highly desirable" and should be effected as soon as possible. This was the generally accepted point of view of a group of housing officials from Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, who met last week in Chicago. The meeting was the first regional meeting sponsored by the National Association of Housing Officials.

The housing officials based their recommendation upon "the conviction that the ultimate success of these projects can only be made possible by the assumption of local reponsibility on the part of qualified local agencies, because only local and private public bodies can understand local conditions and requirements with sufficient insight to insure successful operation of the projects."

The group also found that for any housing to be built under governmental auspices for the low-income group "a substantial amount of subsidy is warranted under present-day conditions." This subsidy, it was pointed out, should be of an amount sufficient "to separate clearly the fields of privately financed undertakings from those financed by governmental agencies." In future housing undertakings it was decided that local governments should assume an increasing degree of responsibility for financing housing authorities and their projects.

In connection with projects now under way the housing officials recommended that legal and other steps be taken to determine as soon as possible policies with respect to management and operation of projects, what the qualifications of managers should be, what the precise policy should be with respect to the payment of service charges in lieu of taxes, the standards of eligibility of tenants, the fixing of rentals, and the completions of projects as contemplated by original allocations. It was generally agreed that responsible local groups should approve rents and management policies before local projects were opened.

Much good can be accomplished, the officials concluded, by enforcing existing building, safety, and health laws, thus making effective a reasonable standard of living and eliminating, through demolition or repairs, "undesirable health and social conditions that arise out of bad housing."

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Tuesday, June 23

[Assessments]

Tax Millions Lost by Isolated Assessors

Millions of dollars of property are lost annually from the tax assessment rolls of the country because of the traditional isolationism of assessing officers, says Kenneth J. McCarren, chairman of the Detroit Board of Assessors and president of the National Association of Assessing Officers. His conclusion is based on this year's special campaign to more adequately assess personal property, especially the intangible variety.

"Much of this loss results," says Mr. McCarren, "from what might be called the 'legal residence racket,' a device employed by thousands of taxpayers of means to avoid their share of the tax burden. These persons as a rule own costly dwellings in two or more states. In each state, they claim residence in another state, and unless the assessors in the several jurisdictions cooperate to fix a definite place of residence, the tax dodger keeps right on with the merry-go-round."

The Detroit assessing officer cites a case wherein a taxpayer claimed a Florida residence, inasmuch as he spent his winters there. The assessor of the Florida city reported back that he filed no return there because he claimed residence in Michigan. Cross-check indicated that the real residence was in Detroit, where he was assessed in the neighborhood of $600,000. Altogether, the personal property campaign in Detroit resulted in placing an additional $50,000,000 on the assessment roll, which permitted a decrease in the city tax rate of 55¢ per $1,000 of assessed valuation.

Intra-state cooperation also pays dividends, according to Mr. McCarren. Some corporations or individuals frequently have a principal place of business or residence in one city, but at the same time have property located in several jurisdictions in such a manner as not to be easily discovered by the assessor. The taxpayer informs the assessor in the jurisdiction where the principal place of business is located that holdings in the other localities are much greater than they actually are. The result hoped for is that assessment in the jurisdiction where the principal office is located will be greatly reduced and the other property escape entirely. Unfortunately, this usually happens where assessors remain in their shells of isolation.

"When any taxpayer claims residence in some other jurisdiction or claims deductions because part of his property is located in other jurisdictions," says Mr. McCarren, "every assessor should make it his duty to check immediately with the assessing officers of those localities. Once a real spirit of cooperation has been developed among assessors on this point, the tax dodger will find his schemes increasingly ineffective and the honest taxpayer will receive a far larger share of justice than he now enjoys."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, June 24

City-College Cooperation for Improving Local Government

Establishment of a bureau of municipal research in the city of Kalamazoo is viewed as a highly encouraging development by Robert M. Paige, secretary of the Governmental Research Association. This new research bureau, he points out, is unique in that it is maintained jointly by the city and Kalamazoo College. The bureau will be under the direction of Professor R.F. Cornell, of the political science department of the college, and City Manager E.C. Rutz. Kalamazoo has operated under a council-manager charter since 1918.

Undergraduate and graduate students majoring in political science are to be assigned to duty in the bureau as a part of their college training. It is anticipated that the practical problems which will be placed before the bureau by the city manager and his department heads will give these students a realistic conception of the typical problems encountered by a city of 57,000 people.

The city manager has already given the bureau several important assignments and is expecting the reports of the bureau's investigations to throw light upon the solution of many administrative problems.

"This experiment in Kalamazoo could be copied by many other communities," comments Mr. Paige. "There are institutions of higher education in or near practically every city over 50,000 in the country, yet it is safe to say that only a few of the cities have used the research facilities of these institutions in studying community affairs. On the other hand, only a few universities and colleges have attempted to make instruction in government and political science realistic and practical by introducing their students to city officials and city problems. More universities and more cities should follow the example which Kalamazoo has set."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, June 25

Insurance, Social

Interstate Conflicts in Security Legislation

The first meeting of the Interstate Commission on Social Security Legislation, recently appointed by the Council of State Governments, of which Henry W. Toll is the executive director, will start tomorrow at Atlantic City. The meeting will be held both June 26 and 27 and will be attended by official representatives of at least 10 states: Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North and South Carolina, and Ohio.

The Council established the Interstate Commission on Social Security Legislation in part because of the many interstate conflicts which have arisen in administration of the provisions of the Federal Social Security Act. Particularly important at this time, it is pointed out by members of the commission, is the need for setting up proper procedures for administering interstate aspects of those provisions in the Federal Social Security Act relating to unemployment compensation and old-age pensions. It is not unlikely, commission members say, that employees of manufacturing concerns, when moved to branch plants, may be subject to provisions different from those existing in the state of first residence, where old-age and unemployment insurance eligibility was first established.

Transient care and other problems of welfare will be brought to the attention of the commission, which will consider recommendations on matters of interstate concern such as uniform settlement laws and uniform laws for the interstate transfer of dependents.

The Interstate Commission on Social Security Legislation includes in its membership: Charles H. Queary, director of legislative reference service of Colorado; Conrad Vanhyning, commissioner of social welfare of Florida; Fred E. Barrett, member of the Indiana House of Representatives; R. L. Tolem, Nebraska, director of state assistance; Gordon P. Eager, administrator of the unemployment conpensation division of the New Hampshire Bureau of Labor; William J. Ellis, commissioner of institutions and agencies of New Jersey; John A. Byrnes, member of the New York Assembly; T. A. Wilson, member of the North Carolina Industrial Commission; Orra Chapman, director of industrial relations of Ohio; and M. Hansford Mims, of the South Carolina House of Representatives.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Friday, June 26

Motor vehicles - Accidents

A Traffic Safety Utopia

Safety on the highways for driver and pedestrian alike would be an accomplished fact if all local traffic regulations and punitive legislation in this country were universally enforced and rigidly adhered to.

The "composite" driver, in whom this multitude of traffic safety provisions might combine, would, in New Jersey, New Hampshire and Illinois high schools, and in the schools of New York City, Hartford, Conn., and several other cities, be taught how to drive and would learn just what makes his automobile tick. In Dallas, Texas, he could go to a special school regardless of his age or his educational qualifications, for here a drivers' course for the general public has recently been established following a successful experiment made on 500 commercial drivers. In 16 states his driving ability would have to be demonstrated before he could take his car on the road. In 14 of the 16 states this driver's test is an annual one.

Our ideal driver would have his brakes, headlights, and minor equipment tested at least once annually in Memphis, Knoxville, Evanston, Des Moines, and Portland, Oregon. If he had an accident in Berkeley, San Francisco, Wichita, Detroit, Minneapolis, St. Louis or Milwaukee he would have to go to school to learn why he had been in an accident and how to avoid a repetition of it.

If he were in Texas and caused an accident while drinking he would be committing a felony. In Rhode Island, if he were merely caught drinking but was deemed to be not drunk, he would lose his driver's license. In Raleigh, N.C. and a number of cities throughout the country he would be refused gas, if intoxicated, and if the station attendant gave him some the attendant would be liable to punishment.

Moving pictures are among the latest educational devices aimed at a reduction in traffic accidents. According to the Police Chiefs News Letter, bulletin of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, a Hollywood movie, made by a professional cast, will soon be released to police departments. The film, a two-reeler, which is entitled "Hit and Run Driver," dramatizes a typical hit-and-run accident and shows, step by step, how scientific methods trace, locate, and finally convict the culprit. Kansas City, it is reported, plans to use as safety campaign material, a movie showing each of the 22 kinds of accident reported in the community during 1935.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, June 27

Elections

Choosing the Candidates

National party conventions in this presidential year direct attention to the methods used for selecting candidates for the approximately 750,000 public offices in the United States which are filled by election. A generation or so ago practically all public officials were nominated by party conventions. Now in most of the states municipal, county and state officials and congressmen as well are nominated by direct primary elections.

The fact that all but three of the 48 states--New Mexico, Connecticut and Rhode Island--have enacted direct primary laws of one kind or another in the last 35 years does not indicate complete satisfaction with this means of choosing candidates. There have been enough critics to have some of the primary laws changed, and many proposals for change--even for a complete return to the party convention system--have been made, though not adopted.

Connecticut and Rhode Island retain the convention, more or less regulated, as the sole method of making nominations. New Mexico's conventions are under the least regulation of any. Utah has accepted the direct primary principle for nominations in first and second class cities only, all other nominations being made by convention. In Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia and Virginia the parties are free to use either the direct primary or the convention, though Georgia recently provided for nominating all local officers in primary elections. Kentucky in 1934 made the direct primary mandatory for nominations for all offices. In half a dozen other states the conventions make nominations for certain offices only.

In 1932-33 bills providing for outright repeal of the direct primary were introduced in at least 11 states, according to check by the American Political Science Review, and during the past two years partial-repeal proposals were introduced in several more. None of these bills was passed.

(more)

Two diverging departures have been made within the past five years in the matter of nominating methods. One, by Massachusetts, puts greater responsibility on the endorsements of political parties; the other, typified by Washington, tends to lessen the responsibility of party endorsement.

The Massachusetts law, passed in 1932, adopts the pre-primary convention. It provides for the proposal of candidates for party nominations for all state offices by party conventions preceding the primary. The names of these candidates, together with those of persons named in petitions in the regular way, appear upon the direct primary ballot, voted upon in September. Candidates receiving the endorsement of the convention have two advantages: their names appear first on the ballot, the names of those proposed by petition being added in alphabetical order; and the words, "endorsed for the nomination by Blank party convention" follow. Colorado has a similar law which provides that any candidate receiving 10 per cent or more of the votes in the convention gets his name on the party ballot.

Washington's "blanket" primary law declares that all properly registered voters are allowed to vote for their choice at any primary election, for any candidate for each office, regardless of political affiliation and without a declaration of political faith. Minnesota has also during the past two years turned to the "wide-open" primary. In this state candidates for the nominations of all parties have their names printed in separate columns on a ballot headed "Consolidated Primary Election Ballot." Wisconsin and Montana are the only other states having open primaries. The non-partisan principle has been applied in the nomination of the new unicameral legislature in Nebraska, where a candidate qualifies by filing a declaration of candidacy and paying $10. The primary ballot contains no party designations of any kind, the names of the candidates are rotated, and the two highest in the primary appear on the final election ballot.

END

P. A. C. H.
JT. LIBRARY
JUN 27 1936

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Monday, June 29

Planning and Housing

Planning and housing are inseparable public functions, and no housing program that is not dealt with as one of the major elements within the province of planning, and subject to planning criteria and techniques, can succeed.

This is the conclusion which Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials, reached in a recent discussion of the relation of planning to housing.

In most European countries, said Mr. Blucher, successful housing developments are all planned developments; and communities, in extending and enlarging, do so in accordance with established planning principles. Population characteristics and trends, trends in the use of the land, and other social, economic and physical characteristics must be studied before any logical location for housing developments can be found, he added. "It is useless," he continued, "to locate a housing development in a section of the city where heavy industry will inevitably predominate. Again, cheap land is no criterion of its desirability for housing purposes. It may be poorly drained, unhealthful, and subject to periodic flooding."

Real community needs can be determined only if social and economic trends are known, Mr. Blucher emphasized. "Physical alterations and diverse structures of the community are required to fulfill adequately these trends -- a fulfillment which the public demands and for which it provides the funds in annual tax payments."

Planning, Mr. Blucher concluded, is "simply good housekeeping. Houses in one place; factories not too hard upon the heels of lawns, gardens and mansions; no great surplus of land in central commercial areas, withheld from use for speculative purposes; schools located in the centers of child population where they are the most useful as well as accessible; in short, extensions and new facilities for a growing or changing population on a basis of quantitative and qualitative need, and following the latest practices in city planning design and engineering."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Tuesday, June 30

Assistance for Public Service Training

New opportunity for training workers in the public service is offered in the increased federal appropriation for vocational training approved recently by Congress. The bill, which increases the annual appropriation for this purpose to $12 million, requiring the states to match funds to 50 per cent of this amount, allows $4 million for trade and industrial education "including public and other service occupations." Its provisions will become effective in July, 1937.

"The appropriation will be welcomed especially by the 40 state leagues of municipalities in the country," says Arnold Miles, assistant director of the American Municipal Association. "Over the past five years 44,435 municipal county and state employees were enrolled in training schools offered by 15 municipal leagues alone. Up to now, however, each school has been handicapped in building its own course of study, using materials and experiences gleaned from other states, in some cases in an unintegrated manner."

As an example of the type of work done for one branch of the municipal service that can be expanded to other branches, Mr. Miles cites preparation by the California Bureau of Trade and Industrial Education of a manual analyzing the job of the policeman and one on police service instruction.

Experience of the United States Office of Education and State Boards for Vocational Education in vocational activities will be very useful to public bodies and organizations of public officials in setting up their training programs, Mr. Miles says. Such assistance is most needed in the development of model courses of instruction and in training teachers.

Plans are now going forward in the American Municipal Association to integrate information on training programs of state leagues and other organizations, and to prepare for carrying new projects into effect when the funds become available.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Wednesday, July 1

Communication - Radio

Cooperative Use of Police Radio

Cooperative use of police radio for inter-municipal communication over closely related areas has proved its advantages to a number of cities of the country. "Testimonials" in its favor came to Essex County, N.J. officials recently when they were trying to decide whether allowing 22 towns and villages in the county to operate separate police radio transmitting systems was preferable to consolidating all the broadcasting in one central station.

Bergen County, neighbor of Essex to the north, for some time has served 60 of its 72 city and village police departments through a central radio station. This installation is considered by the International Association of Chiefs of Police the outstanding example of cooperative use of police radio in the East.

Questionnaires sent out to a dozen or more cities by Essex County officials brought back answers to arguments against a county-wide radio system. Contention had been made that the area and population to be served were too great to make a central transmitter feasible; that the amount of police business transacted daily by the 22 municipal units would overload a central transmitter; that all calls would not receive equal service; and that it would be more expensive than developing either municipal transmitters or a zone system.

Spokesmen for Los Angeles, Kansas City, St. Louis, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago and Cincinnati declared themselves unanimously in favor of coordination of police units through a central police radio transmitter, for the sake of economy, faster service, and reliability. To the question of whether Essex County (area, 124 square miles; population, 853,000) was too large to gain effective service from a single transmitter, Los Angeles replied that its central transmitter covered practically the entire county, which has an area of over 4,000 square miles; and Cleveland quoted service to 473 square miles and 1,200,000 people. No one of the cities felt that the coverage would be inadequate.

No city, also, expressed belief that a central system for such an area would cause an irremediable overload, so that delay in service would occur. Only a few of the cities were able to say that criminal apprehension had become less costly upon the establishing of a central police radio, but better service and savings in terms of safety to citizenry were reported by all of them.

Rapid acceptance of radio as a crime-fighter by hundreds of police departments in the country has led to national consideration of the problem of finding enough waves within the radio spectrum to take care of so much broadcasting. The Federal Communications Commission is now experimenting with plans for zone and interzone stations for radio-telegraphic exchange of information between police agencies throughout the nation. Special licenses have been issued to try out the plans in Davenport, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Detroit, Indianapolis and St. Louis.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Thursday, July 2

Reorganizing State Administrative Machinery

Steady progress toward reorganization of the administrative machinery of state governments, a movement which began in Illinois nearly twenty years ago under Governor Frank O. Lowden, is revealed by a tabulation of state survey reports compiled by Robert M. Paige, secretary of the Governmental Research Association.

Since 1917 at least 39 states have taken steps to reduce the number of separate departments, boards and commissions, to provide fiscal control systems which prevent spending in excess of budgetary appropriations, and to give their governors greater power and greater responsibility for the administration of all state functions and services.

During the past five years Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Rhode Island and Utah have enacted legislation providing for thoroughgoing reorganizations of their administrative machinery. Comprehensive studies have been made and plans for reorganizing state governments have been drafted for Alabama, Iowa, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming. Surveys to determine needed changes in the structure of state government and in the machinery for administrative control are under way in California, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon and Connecticut.

"State government in this country has been hampered by the absence of a chief administrator or manager," comments Mr. Paige. "The reorganization measures which have been adopted or recommended during the past twenty years have looked towards a correction of this situation by giving to some central agency or officer, usually the governor, power to see that the mandates of the legislature are carried out satisfactorily, and that budgets are carefully prepared and the spending agencies are forced to live within them. State governments have traveled a long way toward the goal of administrative efficiency during these two decades. It is encouraging, however, to note that reorganization plans, looking toward more effective administration, are still going forward."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Friday, July 3

Motor carriers - Regulation

Mid-western Truck War

An interstate commercial truck license "war" now being waged between the Secretaries of State of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa suggests the worth of Commissions on Interstate Cooperation as a means of preventing this and other interstate difficulties, according to State Government, official magazine of the Council of State Governments.

On the offensive side in this warfare is Wisconsin. The truck registration law of the Badger state makes no provision for reciprocal understandings with neighboring states on the subject, but it has been the custom to make reciprocal administrative agreements with Illinois and Iowa, so that commercial trucks need be licensed in but one of the three states.

In 1935, the Wisconsin Senate specifically directed the Secretary of State to cease making such reciprocal agreements and to levy registration charges on all foreign common and contract trucks and trailers beginning January, 1936. Nine interstate truckers immediately secured a temporary restraining order and carried the case to the Federal District Court. The Court upheld the Wisconsin joint resolution and dissolved the restraining order. The stopping of trucks at the Wisconsin line began, and Illinois and Iowa retaliated by holding Wisconsin commercial trucks in their states until registration should be made under their laws.

Iowa expects to gain by the exchange, since her fees are 25 per cent higher than Wisconsin's, and the flow of trucks is supposedly heavier into Iowa from Wisconsin than in the other direction.

"Sixteen states have established Commissions or Committees on Interstate Cooperation to settle just such questions," comments State Government. "To save the individual trucker from exorbitant registration fees, the necessity for interstate agreement on the subject becomes apparent. One of the most important matters to be decided is the possibility of setting up a schedule of uniform registration fees on identical types of commercial vehicles by the negotiating states."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, July 4

Where Do Dispossessed Slum Dwellers Go?

Where do slum dwellers move when their houses are demolished?

They do not scatter throughout the city to their own disadvantage or to the detriment of established residential districts, according to reports made by agencies in several cities to the National Association of Housing Officials. Most of the families displaced by slum clearance remain in their old neighborhoods. Often their living conditions are improved, even though there is no new low-rent housing project to which they can move.

Of 225 Cleveland families who had to move to make way for a PWA housing project 94 per cent of the negro families and 74 per cent of the white families settled within a mile of their former homes, a bulletin of the housing officials reports. On a second project 84 per cent of the families relocated within a mile of their previous residences. Ninety-five per cent of the negro families--who move shorter distances than do white families--relocated within a mile of where they had previously lived.

The Alley Dwelling Authority of the District of Columbia reports that it recently studied the movements of approximately 50 West End families that were dispossessed because their dwellings had been marked for demolition. One family, aided in its move, returned to a farm in Virginia; three moved to southwest Washington; and three more moved to other alleys. None of the other families whose movements the Authority was able to trace left the West End. With some financial aid, the relocated families moved to larger and better dwellings, though in some cases they had to take roomers to enable them to pay the higher rents. Families were not told where to move, but they were aided in their house-hunting when they appeared to need the assistance.

In moving 1,115 families to make way for a slum-clearance project, Cincinnati

(MORE)

found that between 85 and 90 per cent remained "downtown," that is, in their old neighborhood. Most of these families now are housed about as they were before the relocation, though many have benefitted by the move.

To avoid the creation of new slum areas through hasty and poor remodelling of old structures to meet low-rent housing demands resulting from its extensive demolition program, Milwaukee officials are carefully scrutinizing all applications for building permits. The city building inspector, who supervises demolition work, has issued a warning that, though the crowding of occupants into old buildings may increase rents per dwelling unit for the time being, better economic conditions and the provision of new living quarters may turn properties that are profitable now into losing ones later.

The fact that slum dwellers do not move out of familiar neighborhoods presents new social problems, comments Coleman Woodbury, director of the National Association of Housing Officials. Among the questions that arise he names these: How long can the process go on without forcing the displaced families into dwellings even worse than those they have lived in? What effect will the coming housing shortage have? Would a similar trend be apparent if decent low-rent housing were available elsewhere, possibly in less central and less closely built districts?

Local governments or agencies that are trying to outline rational housing programs must answer these questions satisfactorily, Mr. Woodbury adds.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, July 6

JUL 3 1936 Taxation

Sources of State Income

State governments, which for more than a century subsisted on the income from one or two tax forms, now derive revenue from a dozen major tax sources. With 1929-1933 legislative calendars crowded with tax measures, state taxation diversification reached a new high. Even though diversification is the rule among the states there are still a few that are able to derive enough revenue from not more than half of the popular forms.

In analyzing these dozen tax forms, State Government, magazine of the Council of State Governments, finds that state income now is derived principally from taxes on personal and corporation incomes, general sales, cigarettes and tobacco, gasoline, chain stores, bank deposits, mutual savings banks, inheritances, severance, public amusements, and horse-racing licenses and pari-mutuel machines. Prior to the economic explosion of 1929 many of the states had been relying heavily on the general property tax.

According to the State Government analysis, the average number of taxes per state is 7. Louisiana levies all but one of the 12 taxes, refraining only from taxing mutual savings banks. California, which imposes all but two of the 12 forms, does not tax cigarettes and tobacco and public amusements.

Between 1919 and 1923 state taxes on personal and corporation incomes, gasoline, cigarettes and tobacco were imposed by numerous states. Delaware created the first general sales tax in this period, adopting the measure in 1919; West Virginia followed in 1921. In the big drive for taxes that began in 1929 and was climaxed in 1933 one hundred forty-five new state tax laws were passed.

Most widely used of the state taxes are levies on gasoline and bank deposits, which prevail in every state. Inheritance taxes are levied in 46 states, Florida and Nevada being the only exceptions. Personal and corporate income taxes exist in 31 and 32 states, respectively; chain store taxes in 24; public amusement and amusement license taxes in 23; general sales taxes in 21; cigarette and tobacco taxes in 18; and mutual saving banks and severance taxes in 17.

Nebraska, Nevada and Wyoming resort to the fewest tax forms, having four kinds of levy apiece. Florida, Maine, New Jersey and Rhode Island have five each; and Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Pennsylvania and Vermont are below the average, with six each.

There have been several reasons for the rise in variety and number of taxes, says W. Brooke Graves, political scientist who helped compile the table. Important among them has been the desire for spreading the tax burden. Whether use of all varieties of tax in a particular state indicates a better distribution of the tax burden than occurs in other states, or whether it means merely that a relatively larger amount of money has been raised for governmental purposes has never been determined, comments Mr. Graves.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, July 7

- legislation

Settlement Laws and Relief

Adoption of a uniform one-year settlement law will be urged upon all state legislatures by the Interstate Commission on Social Security Legislation as a result of its first meeting held recently in Atlantic City. This commission was organized by the Council of State Governments, of which Henry W. Toll is director, to study interstate conflicts that hinder administration of the provisions of the Federal Social Security Act. The commission, headed by William J. Ellis, commissioner of institutions and agencies of New Jersey, also endorsed the uniform act referring to the transfer of dependents which has been recommended to the various state legislatures by the American Bar Association, the American Public Welfare Association, and the Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

Settlement laws, which have complicated administration of transient relief since the withdrawal of federal assistance from this particular phase of welfare, now stand in the way of administration of old-age assistance, unemployment compensation, and other provisions of the Social Security Act. A recent survey shows that 33 states by law or custom require one year's residence to establish legal settlement, five states require less than one year, while 10 states require more than one year. In many states legal loss and acquisition of settlement cover the same period of time. In others, however, settlement privileges are lost in one year, whereas a much longer period is required for acquisition. New Jersey, for instance, requires five years' residence to gain legal local settlement for relief purposes and only one year to lose it. Similarly, California requires three years to gain settlement; absence for only one year to lose it.

All states require continuous residence for gaining settlement. During this specified period the person must be self-supporting. In some states self-support implies that the person received neither public nor private relief; in other states the term is limited to those not in receipt of public assistance.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Wednesday, July 8

(Personnel, Public)

Party Planks for the Merit System

Concern of political parties with the merit system as expressed in the Democratic and Republican platform-planks offers encouragement for an improved government personnel system, says the current issue of the Civil Service Assembly News Letter.

"Merit planks" are written into the two platforms as follows:

REPUBLICAN: "Under the New Deal, official authority has been given to inexperienced and incompetent persons, the civil service has been sacrificed to create a national political machine. As a result the Federal government has never presented such a picture of confusion and inefficiency.

"We pledge ourselves to the merit system, virtually destroyed by New Deal spoilsmen. It should be restored, improved, and extended.

"We will provide such conditions as offer an attractive permanent career in government service to young men and women of ability, irrespective of party affiliations."

DEMOCRATIC: "For the protection of government itself and promotion of its efficiency we pledge the immediate extension of the merit system through the classified civil service--which was first established and fostered under Democratic auspices--to all non-policy-making positions in the federal service.

"We shall subject to the civil service law all continuing positions which, because of the emergency, have been exempt from its operation."

Senator Norris, Nebraska Progressive, the news letter notes, has commented that "the President, whoever he is, will have to battle the leaders of his own party to bring about this reform." Although nominee Landon, for example, has pledged his own support of extension of the merit system, to include all administrative positions below the rank of assistant secretary, and the entire postoffice department, the Senator points out that "his stand is not binding upon the convention which nominated him."

Translation of the merit-system campaign into action will give such legislation as the LaFollette-O'Mahoney bill an opportunity of passing in the near future, the news letter remarks. The LaFollette-O'Mahoney bill, which failed to pass in the Congress just adjourned, provided for departmental personnel offices in the federal government, a council to coordinate federal personnel activities, and a broadened program of employee training.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Thursday, July 9

Population

Back to the Farms

Almost 2,000,000 persons who lived in cities, towns or villages in 1930 had moved to farms by January, 1935, according to the recent Federal Farm Census. These are prophetic figures for the city and state planner, says Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials.

"It is generally known," says Mr. Blucher, "that there was a movement of city population back to the farm during the depression years, but the extent of the movement has not before been realized. How long or how far it will continue is an important factor in the development of any city or state planning.

"All public improvements in communities depend to a considerable extent upon the number of people in them. Future programs of city development must be based on estimates of future population. When new schools are built, for example, their capacity must be planned with careful regard to the number of pupils who will use them over a period of years."

County and state planning will be especially affected if the flow of population from the city back to the country continues to increase, Mr. Blucher points out. Apparently most of the flow during the past five years consisted of persons unable to obtain employment in industrial areas. The migration has been to small farms, some of them not far from industrial areas. Some of the people, however, are going back to submarginal and unimproved lands which will not provide them a livelihood. Proper planning of land use will prevent disaster in these cases.

If enough people move back to the farms, says Mr. Blucher, it is conceivable that municipal relief problems of cities may be lightened, although at the same time the surplus supply of labor in cities will be cut down.

Figures of the Federal Farm Census show that the Connecticut farm population increased 65 per cent from 1930-1935; Pennsylvania's figures went up 118,388 families and Ohio's went up 114,000 families. In the West North Central region, including Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas, only Missouri and Minnesota showed an increase in farm families. South Dakota showed a decrease of 32,000 families. In the South Atlantic region West Virginia had the largest increase in both numbers and percentage--112,805 families or 25 per cent. Kentucky in the East South Central region had an increase of 131,292 farm families.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Friday, July 10

Intensive Police Training - Police

Law enforcement, too long considered but a pavement-pounding routine job, is fast assuming professional proportions. And California, which cradled a college for cops, steps ahead again with the initiation of an intensive statewide police training program. San Francisco and Oakland police chiefs already have set up training units, according to the Police Chiefs News Letter, bulletin of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Officially known as the "California Peace Officers' Institute of Technical Training," the program is to include both pre-employment and in-service police education. In-service training will be given in each of the large cities. Police in the rest of the state will be organized into 14 regions. To each of these training units the State Department of Education will assign a vocational education expert who will assist in developing courses of study selected by police chiefs, and in training teachers. Where requested, the department of education will supply instructors in special subjects, such as ballistics, records, fingerprinting, etc.

Pre-entry training courses will be offered in several sections of the state, at junior and teachers' colleges. Those at Chico, Fresno, Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento and San Francisco have been recommended. The courses will be modeled closely after the one developed at San Jose State College. Photography, police communication, physical education, criminal law and gunnery are among the subjects scheduled.

Five graduates of the San Jose police college are now on the San Jose city police force.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, July 11

(cities + towns)

Urban and Rural Social Characteristics

Any urban Yankee, as measured by eighteen social characteristics, differs less from a Charlestonian than from his rural neighbors, concludes William F. Ogburn, professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, in the current issue of Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association.

The social traits chosen for checking resemblance or dissimilarity were: ratio of the young to the middle-aged, ratio of the old to the middle-aged, size of family, percentage of adults married, percentage widowed, percentage of children in school, sex ratio of the single, amount of rent paid for homes, home ownership, percentage paying income taxes, birth rate, death rate, percentage of foreign born, automobiles per capita, telephones, radio, postal receipts and church membership.

In 11 of the 18 characteristics, cities of the Northeast resembled those of the South more than the rural counties of the two regions resembled one other; in 7 of the 18 traits the rural counties of the two sections resembled one another more than did the cities. In comparing the South with the Middle West, the cities were more alike in 10 of the traits; the rural counties in 8. The situation was reversed when the Northeast and the Middle West were compared, the rural counties being more uniform in 11 traits and the cities in only 7.

In attempting to make the point that a city of one region resembles a city of another region more than it does its own rural neighbors, Dr. Ogburn found that in 14 of the 18 traits the cities of the South and North showed greater agreement than did southern cities with southern rural counties.

Cities in general tend to be more alike with respect to size of family, home ownership, the percentage of youth, the percentage of old people, the sex ratio of the single, the birth rate; and ownership of automobiles, telephones and radios. The rural counties resemble one another more in the rent paid for homes; the percentage married, widowed, paying income taxes, and the foreign born; in death rates, and in church memberships.

This similarity among cities and among rural regions, respectively, and the dissimilarity between urban and rural areas upset the theory, says Dr. Ogburn, that regional comparisons may be made without regard to the character of the population. "There is a good deal of loose, exaggerated talk about regional differences," he adds, "whereas actually the cities of the different regions have many resemblances.

If a congressman wished to consider the matter, he comments, he would realize that the constituents of San Francisco and New York City representatives have more similar social traits than either of these groups has when compared to their respective rural neighbors. Little can be done, probably, about changing the nature of representation, he says, but recognition of the resemblances and differences is important in interpreting it.

JT. LIBRARY

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Monday, July 13

National Association of Secretaries of State Meets

More uniformity among state corporation laws will be sought at the annual meeting of the National Association of Secretaries of State, which opens its sessions in Albany today. Corporation laws exist in each state, and in 41 it is the duty of the secretary of state to issue corporation papers.

According to figures compiled by the Twentieth Century Fund, and published recently in State Government, magazine of the Council of State Governments, more than one-fourth of the corporations whose stock in 1933 was listed on the New York Stock Exchange had incorporated under the laws of Delaware. New York incorporations were 18 per cent of the total, New Jersey 12, and Pennsylvania 5. Sixty-four per cent of the 235 corporations listed had been incorporated in these four states.

The secretaries of state will hold their opening session at the state capitol, where they will be addressed by Governor Lehman of New York. The Tuesday noon meeting, which will be held at West Point, will be devoted to a discussion of law and election legislation and trade-mark registration. From West Point the delegates will move on to New York City, where they will be dinner guests of Edward J. Flynn, New York Secretary of State. Discussions of motor-vehicle laws, corporation laws, and alcoholic beverage control will be high lights in the Wednesday and Thursday meetings. Charles A. Hartnett, commissioner of motor vehicles of the state of New York; and Henry Bruckman and Mrs. John F. Sheppard, of the New York State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, will be speakers.

The duties of secretaries of state are varied. More than one-fourth of them are motor vehicle administrators; nine of them are regular members of the governor's pardon board; eight of them administer the securities legislation of their states; several of them are collectors of gasoline or corporation taxes.

Within the past year the National Association of Secretaries of State has established a secretariat in the Council of State Governments which acts as a clearing house for information. The association is cooperating with the Council in the interests of more uniform legislation.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Tuesday, July 14

Housing Legislation in Review

Ultimate participation of local governments in low-rent housing, through the provision of a part of capital expense, is foreseen by Coleman Woodbury, executive director of the National Association of Housing Officials, in a review of housing legislation recently made for the members of his association.

Mr. Woodbury bases his belief on the course of proposed housing legislation which was introduced into the Massachusetts General Court during its recent session. "By all odds the most significant bill," says Mr. Woodbury, was Senate Bill 226, which later was revised as Senate Bill 512. This bill authorized a city or town to borrow on its bonds or notes an amount not exceeding one-fifth of one per cent of its assessed valuation, to be used by the local housing authority in leasing or buying a federal project of its own. Indebtedness incurred under this bill was not to be included within the statutory debt limit.

Senate Bill 226 was reported favorably by the committee on municipal finance, but was referred to the next session of the General Court. Senate Bill 512 was submitted as an amendment to the Senate report with a message from the governor urging its adoption. In revised form the bill added three conditions to the exercise of the municipal borrowing power: That the federal government make a grant to the local authority of not less than 25 per cent of the cost of the project in question; that provision of local funds be made a condition precedent to the federal grant; and that local funds for any development should not exceed the annual amount by which the cost of public services exceeds taxes, capitalized at 4 per cent.

The bill was introduced upon the petition of the chairman of the Massachusetts State Housing Board. The legislature has not acted on the revised bill. Mr. Woodbury says, however, that within his knowledge, this proposed legislation constitutes the "first serious attempt of any responsible, non-federal, low-rent housing agency to secure substantial funds for the capital costs of housing developments from non-federal sources. It probably will be the forerunner of many other bills embodying this purpose."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, July 15

Interstate Relations-A Statement of Progress

"A panorama of new governmental possibilities that is astounding in its range and inspiring in its possibilities."

Thus does John A. Byrnes, chairman, view the future work of the New York Joint Legislative Committee on Interstate Cooperation, which has just made its first annual report. The New York commission is one of 17 commissions established during the past year which, acting with the Council of State Governments, seek to harmonize the divergent laws and practices of the different states. The attainment of a better coordination between groups of states in the various regions through these new cooperative commissions, says Mr. Byrnes, "marks the development of a new agency of American government, the importance of which is just beginning to be realized."

The 150-page report stresses the progress that has been made in interstate cooperation during the past year. The New York committee has held conferences with other commissions on interstate cooperation on 11 different occasions. These conferences have considered, among other subjects, the interstate aspects of labor legislation, anti-crime legislation, highway safety, regional milk control, transiency and settlement laws, motor-vehicle laws, and gasoline taxes. The conferees initiated efforts looking toward the development of regional planning and the solution of the various water resource problems of the area.

Though Mr. Byrnes reported that its work so far was one of "locating channels rather than charting depths," his committee prepared a legislative program. Four anti-crime measures have been passed and signed by the governor. These statutes cover the problems of close pursuit of criminals across state lines, exchange of out-of-state witnesses, reciprocal supervision by compact of parolees and probationers, and interstate extradition of criminals. Progress has been made in the field of highway safety with the enactment of a statute providing for reciprocal exchange of records of motor-vehicle violations with other states. Measures also have been passed relating to relief and employment of transients.

--T H E R E IS A N O T H E R R E L E A S E ON THE N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Thursday, July 16

The Merit System in "Non-Civil Service" States

Application of the merit system of personnel administration to public welfare departments in three states which lack formal civil service laws is evidence of a growing demand that spoils appointments to government jobs be abolished, according to the Civil Service Assembly News Letter. The three states are Michigan, Indiana and New Hampshire.

The governor of Michigan authorized the use of civil service procedure in the employment of all state and county emergency relief employees as of July 1st. Employees already in the relief service are to be given qualifying examinations, results of which will be a factor in determining releases when forces must be reduced. A commission, named to study the need for a central personnel system, has drafted a civil service law which will be submitted to the next legislature.

When Indiana created its Unemployment Compensation Board the enabling legislation left the way open for civil service procedure in this one department. However, a joint committee has been appointed to study the problem of establishing and maintaining a coordinated personnel system for both the state welfare department and the unemployment compensation division.

In New Hampshire, positions of clerk and field representative in the state unemployment compensation division of the Bureau of Labor are now filled by competitive examinations.

Possible extension of civil service procedure to four other states is reported by the National Civil Service Reform League. The State Civil Service League of Washington is circulating petitions to place a civil service bill on the ballot next November. The Virginia legislature recently appropriated $17,000 for a statewide public personnel study. The governor of Oklahoma is urging passage of a state civil service law. Connecticut's governor has appointed a survey commission to study departmental reorganization.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, July 17

Six Dozen Men's Chambray Work Shirts

How the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision involving the sale of six dozen men's chambray work shirts offers a vehicle for federal-state action on labor legislation is described by John A. Chambliss, former member of the Tennessee Senate, in the current issue of State Government, official magazine of the Council of State Governments.

The Supreme Court's unanimous decision upheld an Ohio law forbidding the sale of prison-made goods. Mr. Chambliss explains: The 72 chambray work shirts were made in an Alabama prison. They went "in commerce between the states" to Ohio for sale. Ohio did not want convicts in other states who were certain of lodging, food and clothing to compete with laborers in her private shirt factories. A law preventing such competition had gone into effect in Ohio on January 19, 1934, after Congress had passed an act providing that prison-made goods should, even when transported in interstate commerce, "be subject to the operation and effect of the laws" of any state forbidding their sale as though manufactured in the state objecting. The Ohioan, Asa H. Whitfield, who sold the Alabama prison-made goods was duly fined according to the state law.

This decision of the Supreme Court, comments Mr. Chambliss, "spells out, in but a few pages, that 'States Rights' may mean something after all. Goods manufactured in and sold in Alabama are free from congressional power. But the decision also says plainly that Ohio has 'States' Rights' which are reciprocal to those of Alabama. The shibboleth or fetish of commerce between the states--commonly termed "interstate commerce"--cannot be used to secure immunity if Congress sees that immunity involves prostitution of its power over interstate commerce."

At least three things are to be learned from the implications of "this quietly announced, far-reaching, and yet simple decision," according to Mr. Chambliss. "First: we perceive that there is no vacuum in our federal system, no defect of power. Congress and a state, acting together, can control manufacturing methods which affect commerce between the states. Secondly, we see that conditions under which a work shirt is produced may be regulated. Thirdly, it appears clear that a state may, with congressional consent, reach out into another state and control the conditions under which goods for exportation are made, though the goods are not harmful in themselves."

Senator Chambliss suggests that if anti-slavery states had refused a market to slave products, with the consent of Congress, the slavery problem might have been solved without the Civil War. Today, he believes, similar barriers should be as effective in stopping sale of child-labor or excess-hours-of-labor goods.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, July 18

The Myth of Government Sterility

"Private enterprise has no monopoly on contributions to progress," say the editors of Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association, in taking issue with the statement of Thomas N. McCarter that "one looks in vain for the name of any government employee as the originator, inventor, or developer of any of the fundamental discoveries which have so radically changed the course of history during the past century and a half." Mr. McCarter, president of the Edison Electric Institute, writing in a recent issue of the Public Utilities Fortnightly, added that there were no "government counterparts" to Pasteur, Faraday, Watt, Edison, or Ford.

In refuting Mr. McCarter's statement, Public Management says:

"Where two private companies had only a muddy ditch to show for the investment of millions, Gorgas made the Panama Canal possible from a sanitary standpoint and Goethals from an engineering standpoint. In a very real sense these two employees of the federal government translated the abandoned hope of private enterprise into a practical invention.

"Late in the eighteenth century, as trustee of a public road district in Scotland, and as a surveyor for the British government, John L. McAdam carried on extensive experiments which led to the use of broken stone in pavement materials.

"Yellow fever is no longer the scourge of the western world, because in 1902 an army surgeon, Walter Reed by name, demonstrated that the yellow fever parasite was carried only by mosquitoes and thereby enabled rigid control of the spread of this dread disease.

"In the eighties, H. Hollerith, a clerk in the Bureau of the Census, invented the Hollerith tabulating machine, which in 1900 enabled the compilation of census data in a few months which would have taken 100 clerks between seven and eight years to compile by hand."

Inauguration of our present method of weather forcasting by James Espey in the War Department; the discovery and application of diphtheria antitoxin by William H. Park, of the New York City Department of Health; chlorination of water supplies, first developed in the Jersey City Water Department; the discovery of the butterfat test for milk, which Stephen M. Babcock refused to patent as an employee of the agricultural experiment station in Wisconsin all these are cited in refutation of Mr. McCarter's contention.

"Scientific research is motivated by service as by profit," says Public Management. "As we honor Edison and Ford, may we also honor Reed, Biggs, Goethals, Hollerith, and thousands of others who served the public well and made the lot of man or more endurable one."

JOINT REFERENCE LIBRARY

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Monday, July 20

Motor

Education -- One Way to Decrease Motor Car Murders

Motor-car murders, which in the past few years have assumed wholesale proportions, may be expected to decline if the educational program for police traffic officers sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police avails anything. Three such traffic officers' training schools will be held in widely separated cities during the next few months: at Harvard University, Northwestern University, and at the University of Alabama.

The first school to be held in the South will convene at the University of Alabama today, and will continue through July 31. Besides the police chiefs association the sponsors are the University of Alabama, Alabama Highway Patrol, and the National Safety Council. Instructors chosen for this 11-day school are Ray P. Ashworth, captain of police, Wichita, Kansas; Burton W. Marsh, American Automobile Association, Washington, D. C.; Captain Potter Smith and Safety Director Lawrence Tipton of the highway patrol; and Andrew J. Kavanaugh, director of public safety of Miami and president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The student body will include state directors of public safety, state police and highway patrolmen, chiefs of police and city traffic officers, sheriffs and their deputies, and rural police officers.

The Harvard training school, now in session, is jointly sponsored by the Harvard Bureau for Street Traffic Research and the police chiefs association. Subjects being taught include organization and training of a traffic division; accident investigation and court work; accident reports and records; public education, traffic planning, and vehicle inspection. The school will run to July 29.

The fourth training school will be held at Northwestern University Oct. 12-24. Instructors include Sidney J. Williams, director of public safety, National safety Council; Burton W. Marsh, American Automobile Association, Washington, D. C., former city traffic engineer of Pittsburg and Philadelphia; Leonarde Keeler, director of the Northwestern University crime detection laboratory; B. L. Corbett, executive secretary of the Milwaukee Safety Commission; O. W. Wilson, chief of the Wichita Police Department; K. D. Dickinson and A. R. Forrester, officers of the Evanston Police Department; J. S. Baker, of the National Safety Council; Franklin J. Kreml, director, and Ray Ashworth, assistant director of the traffic safety division of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Enrollment in the basic course is limited to sixty.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 1936
Release: Tuesday, July 21

Regional Planning - St. Louis

Every region of the country may find suggestions for its own improvement in the planning report on the St. Louis Region just made public, according to Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials. The St. Louis study is the second in the series of regionalism surveys being made by the National Resources Committee.

Although such a metropolitan area as the St. Louis region presents highly complex problems, many of the forces present there, Mr. Blucher says, are to be found in areas of less population concentration. The smaller regions, therefore, can profit by the planning analysis of such a large metropolitan area and by the recommendations which may be based upon it.

Some realization of the scope of St. Louis's problem and of the planning measures needed to cope with it can be obtained from the fact that there are 695 taxing authorities in the region, including 90 incorporated places, 508 school districts and 97 other districts. Conclusions reached in the survey are: There is great lack of park land and existing park areas are maldistributed; larger school sites are needed; there is a deficiency of sanitary facilities throughout most of the region; blighted areas must be studied, and the structures removed or the area rebuilt; the number of governmental agencies and taxing authorities should, in the interest of economy and efficiency, be decreased through consolidation. As a result of the study the St. Louis Regional Planning Commission recommends that a governmental planning agency be created, by interstate compact or other legislative action, to service areas where no local unit is now functioning, and to prepare for adoption a unified regional plan.

Though the report concerns itself largely with the need for and possibilities of improving the physical facilities of the whole region, and, its authors admit, is not so exhaustive or so comprehensive as it could be, it provides a basis for the broad-scale examination of the municipal, metropolitan, and regional characteristics of the region, says Mr. Blucher.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, July 22

- Taxation

Taxing Intangibles of Foreign Corporations

Taxing the intangibles of "foreign" corporations, whose sole claim to a foreign status lies in use of desk space in and ownership of a written charter from another state, becomes much simpler as a result of a recent decision of the United States Supreme Court, says Kenneth J. McCarren, president of the National Association of Assessing Officers. The decision -- Wheeling Steel Corporation v. Fox -- is a "triumph of reality over legal fiction," according to Mr. McCarren, who sees in it increased opportunity for assessing agencies to lay hands on the "tax dodger who incorporates in a foreign state in order to avoid payment of taxes in the state in which he does business."

The Wheeling Steel case brought out the fact that the production and distribution equipment of the plaintiff was located in a state other than the one in which the company had been incorporated. In addition, it was found that practically all sales of the company were made outside the state of incorporation. "According to common-law rule," says Mr. McCarren, "intangible personal property has a tax situs in the jurisdiction where the owner resides, but this rule at best is but a convenient legal fiction, and must give way to realities. The Supreme Court's decision makes it plain that the federal Constitution is no legal sanctuary for the tax dodger."

Many states, Mr. McCarren points out, have statutory provisions for taxing intangibles of foreign corporations when such intangibles are the result of or used in connection with business done in such states. These states, he adds, have had little difficulty in collecting a just tax. Another group of states, he continues, make broad general provisions such as, "all property, both real and personal, is taxable, except such as may be exempted by law." In some, of the latter states the courts have permitted the taxation of intangibles of foreign corporations. Mr. McCarren urges, however, all of these states to enact specific legislation providing for such taxation.

"The road is now open," he says, "for all states to tax foreign corporations as domestic ones. The federal Constitution affords no immunity from taxation of this sort, and antiquated state legislation should not be permitted longer to stand in the way of tax equity."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, July 23

Police - Communication - Radio

National Police Radio

A plan for intercity and interstate police radio communication is rapidly taking form as the result of recent action of the Federal Communications Commission, says Arnold Miles in the current issue of Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association. The plan, which was developed in 1935, was proposed by the Associated Police Communications Officers and was approved by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The Federal Communications Commission, reports Mr. Miles, has taken two steps to make the plan effective. Special experimental licenses have been issued to municipal police radio stations in Davenport, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Minneapolis, and St. Louis for the purpose of trying out the proposed plan in actual practice. Communication officials in charge of these stations, composing a special committee of the Associated Police Communications Officers, met in Chicago several months ago to compare experiences. The committee prepared a report for the Federal Communications Commission which recorded satisfactory performance and included several recommendations for minor alterations in the original plan.

Revision of the Communications Commission's rules, the second step, prepared the way for the introduction of the intercity plan. In general, Mr. Miles points out, the modifications in the rules provide for two new classes of station and emergency service -- zone and interzone police radio stations which are authorized for the radio telegraphic exchange of information between police agencies throughout the country. Nine frequencies have been set aside, and the radio operating procedure has been established. The United States has been divided into zones with boundaries tentatively coinciding with state lines. Departures from these plans may be authorized later.

Stations within a zone may communicate only with one another, Mr. Miles explains. If the message is to be transmitted from points within another zone its normal channel is through a central station -- interzone station -- to the interzone station of destination.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Friday, July 24

Crime - Legislation

Crime -

Tightening Up on the Criminal

State legislatures are making it increasingly difficult for the criminal to get along. And the public may give most of its thanks for this heartening information to the Interstate Commission on Crime, which holds its second annual meeting in Boston on Aug. 21 and 22.

The Interstate Commission on Crime, organized a year ago by the Council of State Governments to seek more effective interstate action in tracking down public enemies 1, 2, 3, and so on, will find that already nine states have adopted one or more of its model anti-crime bills. These model bills are known as the uniform act for out-of-state parolee supervision, uniform act on close pursuit, uniform act to secure the attendance of witnesses from without the state in criminal cases, and the uniform criminal extradition act.

New York and New Jersey have adopted all four uniform laws. Rhode Island has enacted three, the close pursuit bill, the out-of-state parolee bill, and the attendance of witnesses bill. Minnesota has adopted the witnesses and the out-of-state parolee bills. Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Maryland have adopted the out-of-state parolee bill, and Virginia recently enacted the close pursuit bill.

At its forthcoming meeting the Interstate Commission on Crime will discuss ways of further tightening up on the criminal. Governor Paul V. McNutt of Indiana, past national commander of the American Legion and president of the Council of State Governments, will be one of the principal speakers.

Other prominent men on the program include Governor James M. Curley of Massachusetts; Justin Miller, special assistant attorney-general of the United States; Orie L. Phillips, president of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws; Senator Henry Parkman, Jr., of Massachusetts, president of the American Legislators Association; Judge Richard Hartshorne, of New Jersey, chairman of the Interstate Commission on Crime; and a number of state attorneys-general and leading figures in anti-crime legislation.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Saturday, July 25

Facing the Relief Problem

The relief problem is all but camping on the doorstep of local communities, and municipalities must face the facts and prepare, intelligently, for its administration, warns Arthur C. Meyers, budget director of St. Louis, in the August issue of Municipal Finance, magazine of the Municipal Finance Officers' Association.

Relief, says Mr. Meyers, must, particularly in times of extreme economic depression, be administered cooperatively by federal, state, and local governments. "Local governments," he emphasizes, "have set-ups least qualified to cope with a nationwide depression. While I do not wish to be classed with groups who want to raid the federal treasury on every conceivable plan, I am sure it cannot be denied that relief in a depression of a kind through which we are now passing is too serious a situation to continue with no one able to say what constitutes federal responsibility and what constitutes state and local responsibility."

Mr. Meyers sets up "fundamentals upon which, in the light of experience, we can reach some agreement." They are:

1. The problem of relief must be handled on a long-range planning basis, "because it will be with us for some time;"
2. It must be admitted that in the financing of relief local governments and private charity cannot carry the entire load;
3. The taxing power of local governments cannot support a revenue structure that will carry the entire relief load;
4. State and local governments should cease issuing bonds to furnish relief funds; relief should be financed on a current budget basis, creating additional revenues by special taxes if necessary.
5. Politics do not belong in relief;
6. All citizens, regardless of political affiliation, must interest themselves in the relief problem and must cooperate with their governmental agencies to help solve the problem.

Basic facts are needed, says Mr. Meyers, upon which a long-range program is to be built. He suggests the organization of respresentative committees in the local communities and in the state as a whole. Local committees should determine the local relief needs; their reports, handed on to state committees would assist in formulating the state-wide program. State legislative programs should then be prepared to meet the need that cannot be met by the resources of local communities, and to permit states to cooperate with the federal government in making social security a fact.

"We must drive home to ourselves, to other public officials, and to the people," says Mr. Meyers, "that we will be in the business of relief for a long time and that relief must be taken off an emergency basis and be put on a well-planned, long-time basis."

JUL 27 1936

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Monday, July 27

The Ambulance -- A Traffic Menace

Shrieking siren ... clanging bell ... grinding brakes ... an ambulance answering an emergency call. Timid drivers, trying to thread their way through tangled traffic become confused. A smashed fender ... a broken headlight ... hooked bumpers ... angry words.

Private ambulances competing with one another for business have come in for a lot of criticism in a number of cities, says the current issue of Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association, which adds that such speeding through traffic "without regard for pedestrians, motorists, or traffic laws" inevitably raises the question "whether they do not knock down almost as many persons as they pick up."

Because a seven-year old boy was recently killed in Fort Worth, Texas, as the result of this competition among private ambulances to get business, the city proposed a zoning plan which would limit each private company to its own area of operation. The ambulance companies, however, objected to limiting one emergency car to each accident call. The city had to do something, so it passed an ordinance which imposed a maximum speed on ambulances of 50 miles an hour in residential districts and 30 miles an hour in congested areas. The ordinance also provides for police inspection of brakes and other equipment, imposes a city license on drivers, and requires that an attendant trained in first aid accompany the ambulance on all calls. The city can revoke the license of any driver upon two convictions for reckless driving.

Evanston, Illinois, Public Management reports, had the same trouble with tow-cars that many cities have with ambulances. Every time there was a wreck in the city the tow-cars staged a race to get the towing job. So Evanston asked for bids on towing jobs and awarded the contract to the lowest bidder. Evanston solved the ambulance menace by arresting drivers for reckless driving.

"Although ambulances are classified in most cities as 'emergency vehicles,' this dispensation does not relieve their drivers of all responsibility for driving carefully," says Public Management. "The model municipal traffic ordinance drafted by the National Conference on Street and Highway Safety does not exempt ambulances from the requirement to obey traffic signals ... In view of these requirements, which are similar to those obtaining in most cities, the police could probably eliminate most of the danger resulting from ambulance competition by the simple process of enforcing existing traffic laws."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Tuesday, July 28

Property Taxes

The Local Importance of the Property Tax

General property taxes, which less than ten years ago supplied the states with about one-fourth of their total tax income, now yield to states but 15 to 17 per cent of all tax revenues; however, they remain the major source of income for all local governments. Of approximately $4,000,000,000 raised through the property tax in 1934, it is probable that not more than $300,000,000 went to the 34 states which still use it as a revenue-producing medium, according to estimates just made by the National Association of Assessing Officers.

The $4,000,000,000 currently raised from the general property tax, the association continues, are spread over a total assessed valuation of some $160,000,000,000, and more than 90 per cent of the taxes thus raised supplies the municipalities in this country with about 90 per cent of their total tax revenue. "These figures," the association emphasizes, "demonstrate beyond question the importance of property tax assessors in the governmental structure. Upon these officials rests the duty of distributing this huge sum of taxes; each one must do his share in discovering and evaluating this enormous mass of property."

The dependence of local governments on the general property tax has been decreased slightly in the past decade, continues the association statement, by the distribution of part of the revenues collected by state governments from sales and income taxes. No substantial further decrease is anticipated in the near future. Primarily for constitutional reasons, the general property tax has never been used as a source of federal revenue, but "until a generation ago," says the association, "it was practically the sole support of both state and local governments. The withdrawal of the states from this field, which began with the movements for separation of sources of state and local revenues early in the century, was hastened by the success of the Wisconsin income tax of 1911, and it has received a strong impetus from the sales tax movement of the past few years. Fourteen states, including some of the largest both from the standpoint of size and population, now levy no general property tax for state purposes."

Total tax collections by federal, state, and local governments in the United States, according to the latest compilations of the National Industrial Conference Board, amounted to $8,767,000,000 in the 1934 fiscal year. Although complete figures are not yet available, the assessors association estimates that over 45 per cent of this amount is represented by the general property tax. This is a decrease of almost $1,000,000,000 from the 1930-1931 peak.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Wednesday, July 29

Safe Cars and Safe Drivers

Cities of the country are intent on forcing the automobilist into ways of safety, it is revealed in the latest issue of the Police Chiefs' News-Letter, official publication of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Seattle and Chicago are the latest cities to join the ranks of those that have passed ordinances making the mechanical inspection of automobiles mandatory. In neither Washington nor Illinois is there state legislation covering motor-car inspection. Seattle is now constructing an inspection station with a capacity for 800 cars per day. The Seattle ordinance requires semi-annual inspections.

Chicago's ordinance, passed by the City Council Oct. 30, 1935, became effective on July 1, 1936, and the compulsory inspection is, says the News-Letter, "a free service undertaken solely as a preventive measure in reducing the toll of automobile injuries and fatalities caused by defective equipment." Of 9,000 cars tested the day the ordinance became effective, 5,000 cars were found to have mechanical defects. Owners of these cars were asked to return in ten days for a recheck. Vehicles passing the test are given windshield stickers of approval. Inspection covers all lights, including stop lights; windshield wiper; adjustment of headlights; wheel alignment; and brake adjustment and equalization. Failure to comply with the ordinance is considered a misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine of $1 to $200. If the owner of a vehicle is persistent in his refusal to report to one of the inspection lanes his non-compliance may be reported to the mayor who, in his discretion, may revoke the city vehicle license on that particular car.

"You in Your Car on City Streets" is the title of a suggested course of instruction in traffic safety prepared by the automotive industry at the request of the Detroit Traffic Court and police officials. This course is designed to reduce the percentage of motorists who get into difficulties because they do not fully understand the traffic regulations. Applicants for drivers' licenses who fail to pass the examiniation may go to a drivers' school conducted by the Detroit Police Department. The traffic court conducts a school for traffic violators who, in the judge's opinion, would be benefitted by attending.

Under the direction of the American Automobile Association, the Commercial Investment Trust Safety Foundation, the News-Letter also reports, is conducting a nationwide "safe driver motorcade" of such scope as to "merit the cooperation of all forces in America interested in the reduction of traffic and highway accidents." The program includes the selection of the most careful driver from each state, who, with an alternate, will go to New York City and participate in the formation of a permanent association of safe drivers. Eligibles for the title of "safest driver" must have driven a passenger automobile at least 50,000 miles, must still be a regular driver, must never have been involved in a traffic accident or arrested for any violation of traffic regulations.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, July 30

Personnel Administration -- the Modern Method

A personnel plan that will fulfill "a rounded program of continuous service" rather than one confined to "policing the entrances and exits of employment" is recommended for the State Department of Welfare and the unemployment compensation division of the Treasury Department in Indiana by Public Administration Service of Chicago.

Equal opportunity for all qualified persons to compete for positions; establishment of an opportunity for a career in the service and for promotion based upon efficient performance; encouragement of competition for employment of the best qualified persons; a compensation plan assuring equal pay for equal work and consistent with general salary rates; provision for dismissal of unsatisfactory employees; work conditions conducive to a high grade of public service; installation of merit rating systems, in-service training, and work incentives; and impartial administration of the merit system under formally established regulations -- all these are essential to the effective administration of public service personnel, says Donald C. Stone, director of the consulting division of Public Administration Service.

The Indiana recommendation includes the formation of a joint advisory committee, which "should prove beneficial in advising on policies and procedures with respect to the establishment of personnel programs in the department of public welfare and in the unemployment compensation division of the treasury department." One of the principal values of such a committee, the report further recites, would lie in its ability to interpret personnel policies of the two agencies to the people and in securing the support and cooperation of other public and private agencies.

Fullest exchange of staff facilities should be provided for through the joint committee, the report advises. Under its direction personnel specifications which are to be used in both departments could be prepared, salary studies including rates of pay in other public and in private agencies within the state could be undertaken, and a plan for transfer of personnel from one agency to the other could be developed.

Public Administration Service sees in the cooperative administration of personnel of two departments, each of which now operates separately, an opportunity of making much more effective the actual administration of the two agencies which have so many functional similarities.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, July 31

Why Is Planning Necessary?

"Public policies are not made up entirely of scientific facts. Facts are only the background; they determine what lines of action are possible. The policies that actually will be adopted depend upon the desires of the people, modified by their understanding of the facts. The function of a national resources committee is therefore purely advisory."

With this statement of purpose the National Resources Committee has submitted to President Roosevelt its progress report, together with statements from its coordinating committees.

The job of the National Resources Committee can easily be misunderstood, the report points out, since it was not created to do original research, or to administer a public works program. It was established to compile, together with state and local agencies of a similar character, information for the President upon which he could base recommendations for social legislation. The National Resources Committee recommends that any permanent agency performing the functions it now performs should be directly attached to the executive staff; otherwise it would become just another "advisory board presenting periodical reports which serve merely to encumber the public archives."

The National Resources Committee stresses the fact that the "lag between scientific knowledge and public action is the price we pay for the many advantages of the democratic form of government." For example, it finds that "public action to assist in returning certain areas to pasture land could not be put under way until the spectacular dust storms had drawn public attention to the facts." Likewise, "the value of large expenditures for river control was not evident to many voters in the East until the floods of 1936." Other needed public services, the report adds, "may remain inadequately performed for many years because the public is occupied with other interests."

The land, the water, the minerals, and the human and technical resources of the United States "present a mass of facts which never can be completely known," the report continues. "Large masses of scientific data are available, but the arrangement and judgment of the known facts must necessarily be a slow process, never fully completed. The Committee... hopes only to provide a background of coordinated knowledge that will make it easier for the President and Congress to judge the various proposed programs of action with which they have to deal."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Saturday, August 1

Removing Silicosis Hazards

When a man bites a dog, that's news: and when a manufacturer so effectively rids his plant of a dangerous silicosis hazard that he shuts the outside windows so that his workers will not be contaminated by street dust -- that, too would seem to be news. Yet this is just what one Wisconsin manufacturer has done. And he has done it as his part in complying with a legislative program designed to compensate the silicosis victim, to protect the employer, and to remove from all plants the hazards of the disease.

Since the passage of the occupational disease act in Wisconsin in 1919, says Harry A. Nelson, of the Wisconsin Industrial Commission, writing in the August issue of State Government, magazine of the Council of State Governments, the silicosis problem has been largely solved for that state. For several years, says Mr. Nelson, many silicosis claims were made to the commission, "many of them with little or no foundation, and others genuine cases calling for benefits." In some months, he reports, as many as 30 or 40 applications were filed. Since May,1935, there have been filed on the average only six cases per month; in the past three months only one application per month has been filed.

Reasons for this noticeable decrease in the number of applications are,Mr.Nelson says: reduction in the silica hazard through installation of dust-collecting machinery; regularity of medical examinations; rotation of employees in dusty occupations and in non-silica- work; and the retention of employees in dusty work for such short periods that damage cannot be done. Contrary to popular belief, he says, "silicosis is the cumulative effect of much siliceous dust over a long period. Short exposure, even to a fairly heavy concentration of silica, does not cause damage, provided the exposure is not repeated too often."

Since 1919, Mr. Nelson continues,Wisconsin industries have assumed the compensation cost of hazards "which should have been included by coverage in the first draft of all compensation laws." In order to accomplish this, supplemental legislation had to be adopted. Considered as the most important part of the code is that provision adopted in 1932 which prescribes general orders on dusts,fumes,vapors, and gases; establishes safety measures; and sets up a maximum content of deleterious dust which may be maintained in any plant. Next, insurance carriers must cover by compensation insurance any employer who is, in good faith, entitled to insurance coverage. As a condition precedent to the writing of compensation insurance each carrier agrees to take his proportion of the unwanted risks. Again, an employer is given a lower insurance rating when he reduces the dust hazard in his plant to a specified point. Further, manufacturers who use medical examinations "not with the sincere purpose of eliminating employees from work which would be dangerous to them and to their co-workers, but in order to select for work only those with a high degree of physical fitness" are heavily penalized. Finally, employees who show traces of silicosis and who cannot find jobs because of the stigma are allowed rehabilitation compensation. Awards under this provision of the law are limited to a year's wages. Payment of rehabilitation compensation does not bar the employee from collecting further, should physically disabling silicosis develop.

JT. LIBRARY

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, August 3

JL 31 1936

The Waning Sales Tax

Sales taxes, considered by many to be primarily a depression source of revenue, appear to be on the wane, according to State Government, magazine of the Council of State Governments. So far five of the twenty-eight states that enacted sales measures at one time or another have dropped them. Of twenty-one states that now have sales taxes in force, eleven administer temporary laws which will expire in 1937.

The tax was allowed to expire automatically in Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania. In Kentucky and New Jersey popular sentiment against the sales tax made necessary its repeal. The sales tax law passed by the Oregon legislature never got onto the statute books because it was defeated three times at referendum elections. Minnesota's law was vetoed by Governor Olson.

Expiration dates will lift the tax next year in Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Wyoming. Unless new laws are enacted, therefore, sixteen of the twenty-eight state sales tax laws will have become inactive by Jan. 1, 1938.

In its latest study on the subject the Interstate Commission on Conflicting Taxation, a research agency of the Council of State Governments, reported that sales tax revenues actually collected varied from 61 per cent to 211 per cent of expected yield. In general, it was found that the most satisfactory way to predict yield was to apply the expected rate to the latest available retail sales figures. The Commission also found that, in general, a 3 per cent tax could be administered for less than 2 per cent of the revenue; a 2 per cent tax for less than 3 per cent of the revenue; and a 1 per cent tax for approximately 3 per cent of the revenue. This general conclusion is based on an examination of tangible administrative cost, and may not represent the entire cost of administration," since certain other officials sometimes cooperate with the administrative agency designated in the statute. The most usual example would be provision of legal services by the state attorney general, compensation for which would not always be included in the administrative costs."

Sales tax revenues, it is pointed out, have generally gone to specific state and local uses, rather than to the general fund, "as good budgeting would require." Earmarking the revenue for specific use has, it appears, greatly aided in securing political support for sales tax measures. Relief, schools, old-age assistance, and roads have been the chief beneficiaries of sales tax collections.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Tuesday, August 4

Measuring Unemployment

Cincinnati has found a way to count its unemployed, and recommends its procedure to all other communities, particularly those in which annual school censuses are required by law. The plan is described in the August issue of Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association, by Alfred W. Pecsok, office manager of the Cincinnati Division of Public Welfare.

Cincinnati has made an annual count of unemployed each year since 1929 at the same time the school census was taken. The joint count was decided upon after employees of the welfare department and the attendance department of the board of education had discussed its advisability. The board of education decided to take the census of employment and unemployment, in return for which extra service the city would supply supervision for the employment census and furnish clerical aid in the tabulation work. Later, this extra help was supplied through work relief.

Each year the census is taken during the same month, so that the changing effects of normal seasonal fluctuations of employment are reduced to the minimum. In the seven years during which the census has been taken more than 1,000,000 interviews have been made by the enumerators, who have been, as far as possible, the same for each census.

The first question enumerators asked was: "How many persons in this home are and would be working for wages or salary if work were available?" All "employables" were thus discovered. The second question was: "How many of these were employed during the last two weeks full time, part time, or no time?" "Totally unemployed" was interpreted to include those on WPA projects, but not those on PWA work, slum clearance, and resettlement. Whether these should be considered part of the unemployed Mr. Pecsok finds "entirely a matter of opinion." A part-time worker was defined as a person not having a full-time job but who averaged at least one day a week during the two weeks preceding the date of enumeration.

As a result of the 1936 census Cincinnati finds that 72.67 per cent of its employable population is currently employed full time, with 6.53 per cent more employed part time, and only 20.8 per cent wholly unemployed. This compares with 51.67 per cent full-time employment in 1933 (the low point); 17.9 part-time employment; and 30.43 per cent totally unemployed. In 1929 these figures were, respectively: 88.56, 5.27, and 5.94 per cent.

"Most of the added cost of the unemployment census," says Mr. Pecsok, "represents work relief wages which the federal, state, or local governments would have provided for the support of these relief families even if this work had not been done."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, August 5

Tax collection - Installment

Installment Payment of Taxes

Along with automobiles, refrigerators, radios, and household furniture, taxes may, in the not too distant future, be generally paid on the installment plan. Raymond Edmonds, writing in the current issue of Municipal Finance, magazine of the Municipal Finance Officers' Association, finds that the consensus among public officials is favorable not only to continuation of partial payment of taxes but to its extension.

Mr. Edmonds, who is city clerk of Beaumont, Texas, says that the true test of the value of any partial-payment plan involves an appraisal of its effect on the taxpayer, the city treasurer, and the city's financing program. He believes that most taxpayers would prefer several small payments to one large one. Those who, through habit, wish to pay one lump sum should be accommodated. Frequent payments complicate the work of the treasurer, billing costs may be higher, and clerical expenses greater, he explains, but they also offer greater opportunity for discovering discrepancies in records and for investigating delinquencies before succeeding payments are due. Installment tax payments provide the cities with funds that heretofore have been supplied through tax anticipation warrants. Frequent payments, says Mr. Edmonds, "eliminate or reduce short-term operating loans and save interest costs," but most important, "provide an escape from fluctuating money markets which may cut off or restrict credit or demand an exorbitant interest rate."

In setting forth the details of a suggested plan of partial payments Mr. Edmonds says:

"First, there should be at least four payments, with the first as near as possible to the begining of the current fiscal year. Also, optional single payment of the full tax midway in the year may be practical in some places. Penalties should apply to each installment, with a graduated scale for each succeeding month's delinquency. With single payment option, payment, of course, could be made in full on a specified date without penalty, but failure to take advantage of such option would automatically apply penalties prescribed under the quarterly plan. Discounts may be permitted if local conditions justify and no legal obstacles are present. It would seem the best practice to apply discounts only to full payment made prior to regular due date set up under the single payment option."

In conclusion Mr. Edmonds says that "those practical difficulties experienced in the operation and administration will be minimized in time, and it follows logically to predict an increasing dependence on installment payments as an effective method of tax collection."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Thursday, August 6

Coordinated Water Control

Efforts to coordinate federal, interstate, state and local activities in planning the development and controlling the uses of the waters in the Delaware River Basin are now under way, according to an announcement just issued from the office of Thomas A. Logue, Secretary of Internal Affairs, Pennsylvania, and chairman of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin.

This seventeen-member commission is an outgrowth of the regional conference on problems of the Delaware River Basin held in Philadelphia in April under a call issued jointly by the Pennsylvania Commission on Interstate Cooperation and the Council of State Governments. It is composed of nine commissioners on interstate cooperation, three each from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York; one member of the planning board of each of the states; three representative of the governor of Delaware (which has neither a commission on interstate cooperation nor a planning board); the regional representative of the Council of State Governments; and a technical water consultant, appointed by the National Resources Committee.

In commenting on the organization of the commission, Mr. Logue said: "The Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin is not a study group: rather, it is designed to put into effect a program which we hope will correlate and harmonize the viewpoints and recommendations contained in the various surveys and studies of the Delaware River which have been made from time to time during the past fifty years. Each of the four states concerned is officially participating in this work. The Council of State Governments which, under the direction of Henry W. Toll, has been pioneering in the development of interstate cooperation, is supplying the commission with a secretary. The National Resources Committee has assigned a water consultant to the commission, in connection with the drainage basin surveys now being conducted throughout the United States.

"This combination of federal, state and interstate agencies is significant," Mr. Logue added, "and it is our hope that, with the additional cooperation needed from local governments and from private agencies interested in these problems, a harmonious and practical program of action will result."

As its first objective, the commission is to devise a program for the abatement and prevention of water pollution in the Delaware River and tributary streams. A review of all water legislation in the four states involved is now being undertaken at the commission's headquarters, recently established in the Franklin Trust Building, Philadelphia. A legislative program is to be prepared for submission to the January, 1937, legislative sessions.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, August 7

Techwood Homes Ready

Housing - Limited

Techwood Homes, PWA housing project in Atlanta, is ready for occupancy. Begun as a limited-dividend project, it is now an all-federal one, and the first of all federal low-rent housing projects to be finished. PWA has announced the rental schedule and the principles of tenant selection.

What the PWA calls "base dwelling rent," or payment for shelter only, says a bulletin just issued by the National Association of Housing Officials through its executive director, Coleman Woodbury, averages $5.58 per room per month. The range of rents is from $16.40 for some three-room apartments to $25.40 for some five-room apartments. Five- and six-room houses are available at rents ranging between $26.05 to $31.30. Tenants also will be charged an average of $1.81 per room per month for heat, hot and cold water, and electricity for lighting, cooking, and refrigeration. Studies made by the government indicate that tenants would have to spend much more than this amount in order to purchase the same services for themselves without the advantages of large-scale operation offered by the housing project. Stoves and refrigerators are provided without additional cost to the tenant. The total base dwelling rent, plus utility service costs, thus becomes $7.39 per room per month which, in the language of the PWA announcement, "will be all the tenant will have to pay to operate his home."

At first sight, says Mr. Woodbury, this total base rent may appear higher than it should to fall within the rental range of low-rent public housing developments. He adds, however, that the rentals could be reduced somewhat if the administrator wished to take advantage of the provisions of the George-Healey-Russell act by charging an interest rate lower than the 3 per cent first established for such projects. Again, he points out, although the distress rents in Atlanta may now average $5 per room per month, the impending housing shortage will permit these rents to be raised to any figure the market will stand, while rents in public projects like Techwood will continue to be based on actual cost less available government subsidy. Thus, rents in public projects are likely to approach the lowest level in the rent scale for a city as a whole.

Principal guides in tenant selection will be, according to the housing officials bulletin:

Tenants will not be taken whose incomes are lower than $700 a year or higher than $1,800 a year, depending upon the size of the family.

The maximum allowable occupancy of apartments is: three persons in a three-room apartment; five persons in a four-room apartment; seven persons in a five-room apartment; seven persons in a six-room house. Children under two years are not counted in determining the size of families. Lodgers or groups of unrelated adults will not be eligible.

Preference will be given to self-sustaining, low-income families with children, and to families the heads of which are citizens of the United States or who have taken out first citizenship papers.

Families must have lived in Atlanta for at least a year before applying for a dwelling in the project.

These guides are in addition to the fundamental requirement that tenants in the new development must come from bad housing environment.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Saturday, August 8

Civil identification - Fingerprints

Voluntary Fingerprinting

Backed by what the International Association of Chiefs of Police describes as "one of the most remarkable demonstrations of the value of organized education yet witnessed in this field," the voluntary fingerprinting campaign carried on by the city of Berkeley, Calif., recently closed. During the campaign 52,400 of the city's 85,000 citizens voluntarily filed their fingerprints with the police department and through it with the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Washington. The total cost of the campaign was approximately $1,500.

Voluntary fingerprinting has always been looked at askance in this country. The average American does not take kindly to too great an investigation of his personal affairs, so a well-planned program of education preceded the actual registration of the fingerprints. The Berkeley fingerprint campaign managers were up against these objections: fingerprinting is almost universally associated with criminal activities; public apathy was general; factory workers thought the plan some dark scheme of the employers; and the bosses were none too certain of just what the police had in mind.

Educational activities hit their peak early this year, after eight committees were organized to "sell" fingerprinting to the hesitant populace. These committees were: committee on printed publicity; on newspaper publicity; on radio, theater and miscellaneous publicity; a speakers' committee; one on churches and affiliated groups; one representing schools, parent-teachers' organizations, and "dads" clubs; a committee on statistics and progress; and a University of California committee. These committees functioned throughout the campaign, and the secretary of the police department acted as coordinator.

Actual taking of the fingerprints was supervised by the police department. Fingerprinting was done by police, firemen, boy scouts, girl scounts, members of the American Legion, and other civic-minded groups. Fingerprint stations were set up in firehouses, schools, theaters, banks, libraries, the city hall, department stores, clubs, restaurants, drug stores, and on street corners. The most popular stations were the out-of-door ones.

Chief Greening, of the Berkeley Police Department, offers this advice to cities contemplating similar campaigns: "Don't go too fast." He emphasizes the fact that as long as people are in doubt, they will oppose. "The program is extremely desirable," says Chief Greening, "but it should be undertaken only with full knowledge that it is a big job and one that should be thoughtfully and carefully approached."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

JT. LIBRARY AUG 7 1936

1936
Release: Monday, August 10

The President's Order on Postmasters

President Roosevelt's executive order bringing first-, second- and third-class postmasters under the merit system went as far as it could to remedy the failure of the last Congress to act on civil service bills. It should not, however, lessen the desire for the passage of legislation that will put these postmaster positions definitely and entirely under operation of civil service law. Harry B. Mitchell, president of the United States Civil Service Commission, makes this point in the August issue of the Civil Service Assembly News Letter.

Under the new order, when a postmastership vacancy occurs, the postmaster-general may recommend that the incumbent (if it is a case of term-expiration) or some employee in the classified service be given the job. In either case the appointee must be found eligible by the Civil Service Commission. If neither course is followed the Civil Service Commission is to hold an open competitive examination, and the person who makes the highest rating must be appointed if he qualifies as to character and residence.

Mr. Mitchell calls the procedure made possible under this order "the best that the country has known." He remarks that the President had no power to put postmaster positions under civil service law, and therefore did the most he could to improve selection of these public employees.

Further improvement, probably through congressional action, could eliminate other weaknesses which still exist, according to the news letter. These are: failure to provide for career service instead of the four-year term of office; limiting of selection to persons who have been bona fide patrons of the post office in question for at least a year immediately preceding the time of application; and the veterans' preference clause. These are "handicaps to operation of a true merit system," according to the Civil Service Assembly.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Tuesday, August 11

Death on the Open Road

Motor-vehicle accidents have gradually shifted from the smash-up on city streets to death on the open road, R. L. Forney, statistician of the National Safety Council, says in the current issue of State Government, magazine of the Council of State Governments.

Mr. Forney points out that while city automobile deaths increased only 27 per cent in the 11-year period 1924 to 1935, fatalities on rural highways and in the towns under 10,000 population, increased as much as 150 per cent.

In 1924 there were 9,300 deaths resulting from accidents occurring in cities of 10,000 population and more--the so-called urban areas. By contrast, in towns under 10,000 population, and on the open road, there were 10,100 deaths that year. Gradual increases in urban deaths from auto accidents were recorded from 1924 until 1930, when fatal accidents in cities numbered 13,180. Since then, the city deaths have declined, not only in rate per unit of population, but in actual numbers. The 1935 total was 11,800, or only 2,500 deaths more than in 1924. From 10,100 fatal accidents in the rural areas in 1924, on the other hand, the figure advanced with little interruption to a new high mark of 25,200 in 1935.

This shift in the accident record from the city to the rural area has greatly increased the responsibility of state governments for traffic safety, says Mr. Forney. "This does not mean that city governments have lost any of their responsibility," he concludes, "but simply that the worst part of the problem, -- and the part that is increasing in seriousness -- is not within the control of city officials, and must be controlled, if at all, by the states. ... The benefits of uniformity in traffic control from city to city and from state to state are almost too obvious to require listing....Voluntary observance of traffic rules by the motorist and by the pedestrian would be much greater if the rules, the signs, and the enforcement practices were uniform and readily understood."

States that do not have drivers' license laws present a "wide open field for accident reduction," says Mr. Forney. Fewer than 20 states now have both a standard law providing for examination of new drivers and "an adequate administration of that law." License law states, he says, reduced their average death rate 21 per cent from 1926 to 1935, "whereas other groups of states have had increases ranging from 4 to 33 per cent."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, August 12

Tax Exemption on Industrial Machinery

Tax exemption of manufacturing machinery in Massachusetts is one of the recent bids of a New England state to help re-establish old-time industrial prestige. According to the National Association of Assessing Officers, the Bay State is the third to offer immunity on this kind of property, the other two states being New York and Delaware.

Several other states grant either partial or temporary exemption. In Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Scranton, for example, manufacturing machinery is exempt from city taxation, and there are no county and state taxes levied on this type of property. In Maryland it is exempt from county taxation on a county-option basis, without the option to withdraw the exemption once it has been granted. Ten states, two of which are in New England and eight in the South, grant exemptions to some or all new industrial developments for a maximum period of five to ten years after construction.

"Tax experts have long predicted a trend away from the taxation of tangible as well as intangible personal property," comments Kenneth J. McCarren, president of the National Association of Assessing Officers, "but few have been willing to recommend the immediate adoption of such a program. In most European countries what was once a general property tax has long ago become a tax on real property alone. The State of New York has now passed through a similar evolution."

Tax experts have shown little sympathy with exemptions granted as a subsidy to local industry, whether for the purpose of stimulating the investment of funds which might otherwise remain uninvested or for the purpose of attracting capital from other states, Mr. McCarren observes. "Such subsidies must, of course, be paid out of funds raised from other taxpayers, and once the bars are lowered, there is scarcely any limit to the possibilities of competitive underbidding among the states."

The efficacy of these tax exemptions as subsidies is also open to question, he adds. There are many factors of prime importance influencing the location and migration of industry, and the tax burden is seldom among them. Manufacturing corporations in the United States paid something over $500 million in state and local taxes in 1932, of which probably not less than $400 million were property taxes. Their total expenses, including the cost of goods sold, however, amounted to over $33,000 million. A relatively small differential in wages or in transportation costs is worth more than complete exemption from property taxation, and such exemption is apt to prove of temporary significance in directing the flow of capital from one state into another.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, August 13

Cooperative Purchasing Service Pleases Michigan Cities

Six years of cooperative purchasing of certain municipal supplies through a single office have convinced the cities which are members of the Michigan Municipal League that they gain much by the plan, according to Herbert A. Olson, League staff engineer.

In 1930 a group of five Michigan city managers decided that their cities were paying too much for fire hose. They had been paying from $1.20 to $1.40 a foot for it. Upon their request the Michigan Municipal League investigated and found that they were correct. At the suggestion of the municipal league, which offered to do the buying, the five municipalities pooled their orders, totalling 5,200 feet, and secured the hose for 64¢ a foot.

This was the beginning of the Michigan Municipal League's purchasing service, which has grown so much in popularity that it is now fulfilling the fire hose requirements of nearly 100 of its member municipalities. Last year the purchasing program was broadened to include many other items--fire department brass accessories, street name signs, push brooms, traffic and fire hydrant paint, water hose, water meters and miscellaneous materials.

By purchasing supplies centrally, the cities not only save money but they are guaranteed standard, tested materials, with the assurance of being able to return the goods if they are unsatisfactory. When the League quotes a price in answer to a city's query, it quotes the lowest prevailing price, retaining the commissions or trade discounts to finance the service. At the end of the fiscal year, if the commissions exceed the expense of carrying on the service, refunds or rebates are made to the municipalities.

Cities in several other states besides Michigan are benefiting through similar purchasing services rendered by their state leagues of municipalities. Wisconsin, Oregon and North Carolina leagues have undertaken such services. Most of the purchasing, however, has been of fire hose only. Mr. Olson suggests that many other items might be bought, such as cement, brick, sewer pipe, hydrants, water meters, alum, lime and chlorine for water purification, coal, gasoline and fuel oil.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, August 14

Hermit Municipalities Belong to the Past

City governments can't afford to be hermits these days. If they would have the best in government they must stretch a cooperative hand across to their neighbors and be on the alert to develop relationships with county, state and federal governments.

A. J. Koenig, city manager, offers practical proof of the necessity for this intergovernmental cooperation as he has seen it in his city of Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin. Writing in Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association, he lists these as recent examples of cooperation:

Federal-City. With the federal government Ft. Atkinson has done business under CWA, FERA and WPA programs. Federal liquor enforcement officers have been given necessary information from municipal records on occasion. When the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey field engineers came in to establish bench marks in the vicinity, Ft. Atkinson municipal engineers worked with them.

State-City. Ft. Atkinson officials have attended legislative conferences called by the governor, hearings before legislative committees, and public service commission hearings. The city has worked with the state highway department on the maintenance and improvement of state highways passing through the city. The state health department has advised the city on water and milk supply. The state tax commission audits the city's records annually. City police have aided the state liquor control division. City employees have regularly attended schools of instruction sponsored by the state government in cooperation with the municipal league and sometimes with the state university.

County-City. The city purchases at approximate cost from the county highway department asphalts, calcium chloride and other such items, and, in turn, sells to the county gravel and sand from the municipal pit. Services and highway equipment are often exchanged under a similar arrangement. Close co-operation of city police with the sheriff's department in matters of law enforcement has become a matter of course, and much aid has been extended to the county relief authorities in their work within the city.

Other Relationships. With the school district and with neighboring units of local government Ft. Atkinson has cooperated in half a dozen instances. Public tennis courts, skating rinks and playgrounds have been established upon school owned vacant property. The public school nurse has been provided with an office in the municipal building. Considerable road and street maintenance work has been done at special rates for the townships nearby. Fire protection and some sanitary sewerage and water service are furnished consumers beyond the corporate limits of Ft. Atkinson.

City Manager Koenig has convinced himself, he says, that it is necessary for administrators of all cities to become acquainted with the functions and operations of other units of government, and that they must stop worrying that administrators of adjacent and overlapping units of government will steal the show.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, August 15

Governmental Research Association Takes Stock

A thirty-year old movement to better government by introducing more efficient and economical operating methods will observe its birthday at Ann Arbor, Mich.,this month when the Governmental Research Association holds its annual meeting August 25-28. The Association is the professional organization of those working in the 200-odd governmental research agencies of the country, which have been set up to analyze costs and methods of public administration and suggest ways of improving it.

An important part of the meeting this year will be discussion of the survey the governmental researchers have made of their accomplishments and their plans for the future. This taking stock, or "re-thinking" governmental research, will be in charge of Carter Atkins, president of the Association, who for more than 14 years has headed the St. Louis Governmental Research Institute.

How democracy can be made more effective through greater citizen participation in government, and what place research agencies should have in such a program is another important topic. Howard Evans, of the Payne Fund, of New York, will open the discussion of these problems.

Problems of administering the new social security program will be presented to the conference by Frank Bane, executive director of the Social Security Board.

A session will be held on economical fire protection, with Percy Bugbee, assistant director of the National Fire Protection Association, as speaker. The future of the property tax will be discussed by Jens Jensen, professor of political science at the University of Kansas, and Professor Clyde King, former commissioner of revenue of Pennsylvania.

Since the establishment of the New York Bureau of Municipal Research in 1906, indpendent governmental research agencies have been set up in approximately half the cities over 100,000 in this country. There are also citizen-supported governmental research bureaus concerned with problems of state governments, and many governmental research bureaus are maintained by universities and colleges.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

AUG 14 1936
P.A.C.H.
LIBRARY

1936
Release: Monday, August 17

W Cities + towns

Averagetown, U.S.A.

Mix a melting-pot of representative American cities and what do you have? Prof. William F. Ogburn, University of Chicago sociologist, does it with statistics, and finds that Averagetown, U.S.A., today is something like this:

Over one-third of the people who labor are at work in manufacturing. Between one-fifth and one-sixth of them buy and sell to make their livings. About one-tenth are engaged in moving objects and persons from one place to another. Slightly more than one in ten copy, figure, file or do other clerical work. One in eight or nine persons of the working population serves the rest of the townsmen by waiting on table, laundering, cleaning, cutting hair. About one in eleven serves as a lawyer, teacher, doctor or dentist.

Averagetown, U.S.A. requires about three police for every one thousand of the ordinarily employed population, plus 3.7 officials, inspectors and guards. To minister to physical ills, four physicians are available for every thousand people; for spiritual ministry, there are 3.1 people per thousand, and for legal business, 4.2. There are about six times as many teachers as there are other professional people.

Most of the citizens in Averagetown are old enough to hold down a job, but not so old as to be shelved; that is, they are between 20 and 55.

In this hypothetical typical city, one in every 4 adult women is working outside the home in the North; in the South, it is one in 3, since many Negro women "work out." In 1930, one in 8 married women was employed.

Average earnings of the typical worker, whether in factory or store, are about $1,300 a year in the North; in the South, about $960 in manufacturing and $1,190 in retail stores. Out of this wage, the average family that rents a dwelling pays $28 a month in the North, and $18 in the South. When the homes are owned, they are worth $5,000 on an average in the North and $4,600 in the South.

The family in Averagetown consists generally of only 3 or 4 persons, including boarders and relatives. About one in 10 families has roomers or boarders. In the average city, only 6 out of every 10 adults over 15 years of age are married, and about one in 10 is widowed or divorced.

Averagetown taxes per capita adult are about $32 a year. The tax load of Averagetown Citizen who works, and thereby shoulders most of the burden, is about $80 a year, or one-seventeenth of his income.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Tuesday, August 18

Public Works: Stabilized or Stabilizer?

Whether to put public works on a stabilized basis or to regard them as a balance wheel for future business depressions is a question which public works engineers must make up their minds about now, says Frank Herring, editor of the Public Works Engineers' News Letter.

Most people, according to his editorial in this bulletin issued by the Joint Secretariat of the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials, have the impression that during the past five or six years an abnormally large amount of public improvement has been undertaken -- that public works has been used as a balance wheel. In reality, however, says Mr. Herring, "we have fallen short of achieving even public works stability."

Figures he quotes prove the statement. During the five years prior to 1930 the average national volume of public works was about three billion dollars a year. The five years following 1930 averaged only a little more than two billion. The year 1935, which was the most active year since the depression, had a volume of about two and a half billion dollars. Large federal expenditures have been made, but local and state funds, which normally provide the bulk of public works, have almost dried up. Employment figures tell the same story, he points out. The employment that can be credited to the present level of public works expenditures is high, but back in 1927 and 1928, there were millions employed on public works for whom public works represented their normal occupation.

Stabilization of public works has a powerful argument in its favor, Mr. Herring believes, since it would mean that in future depressions the public works field at least, by keeping its own men employed and its own activities undiminished, could refrain from adding to the deflationary forces. In order to bring about such stabilization, however, he says, the public works engineers must establish broadly conceived and thoroughly coordinated programs of public improvements for a five- or ten-year period. This, he emphasizes, "means carefully planned financial programs which will provide a credit margin sufficient to carry out the plans when tax revenues decline. The public must be informed as to the direction of the effort and their support engaged."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, August 19

Citizenship - Education

Presenting Government, by "Personal Appearance"

Public officials, today more than ever, are telling the public about their jobs and their problems. Appeal to the people through the eye--by newspaper and printed reports--and through the ear--by radio broadcasts of police court and council meeting--is becoming a common practice. Now comes a report of "personal appearance" talks, from the Speakers' Club of Los Angeles.

This club, as described in a pamphlet issued by the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada, came into existence about five years ago, when a handful of Los Angeles employees in the city hall and county decided that it was their duty to inform the public about local governmental affairs. To enable clear and interesting presentation of these matters, they set out to perfect themselves in public speaking.

Membership in the club, limited to a list of fifty, consists of men in administrative positions in the city and county of Los Angeles, several state and federal officials and academic and research workers in the field of government. The "Speakers" meet once a month at dinner, which is followed by an evening of speeches, debates and open forums. Each individual's public appearance is criticized by a university instructor in public speaking, and speakers are frequently subjected to the practical situation of a heckling.

Within the club, the members have learned much about the workings of one another's departments, the pamphlet reports, thus giving opportunity "to turn inter-unit jealousies into understanding and respect." Outside, they have made hundreds of talks on governmental subjects before many groups: school assemblies, parent-teacher clubs, churches, service clubs, women's clubs and fraternal orders. Now and then they speak over the radio.

Success of the club has encouraged two other groups of public employees in California to form similar groups, and joint meetings and inter-club debates are now being proposed.

Recognition of the public official's duty to supply the people with practical, timely information about their governments in gaining emphasis, the pamphlet comments. Dr. John M. Gaus, University of Wisconsin political scientist, says: "The municipal official has done a remarkable job during this depression. It may seem ironic to reward him with the assignment of an additional task of educating his public. Yet until that task is undertaken by those who know most about the city, his work is endangered by the shifting winds of sentiment of those who are ignorant of the problems of the community in which they live and on which they are far more dependent than they realize."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, August 20

Forty-Seven Planning States

All of the 48 states except Delaware have now embarked upon state planning by the establishment of a state planning board or commission, according to the most recent tabulation made by the American Society of Planning Officials. Louisiana, which on June 30 created a state planning commission through legislative enactment, became the 47th state to provide for some sort of planning agency.

In 34 states, including Louisiana, state planning commissions exist through statutory authority; in the other 13, they are governors' commissions. Pennsylvania recently adopted legislation changing its governor-created planning commission into a planning board established by legislative enactment.

In addition to the usual sections relating to research, inventorying of state resources, coordination of state departmental functions, the Louisiana planning statute provides that the chairman of the commission, who is to be appointed by the governor, is to serve full time as a salaried official. In most of the states, all of the members of the planning commission serve without compensation.

The Pennslyvania Act has an unusual and important section dealing with public works, according to Walter H. Blucher, director of the American Society of Planning Officials. It provides that the State Planning Board, which is to consist of 9 members, 4 of whom must be the heads or executive officers of state departments, shall "prepare, amend and keep up to date a long-term development on major state improvement projects." This is to be a construction and financial program covering a 10-year period and is to be prepared in consultation with the several state departments for the purpose of assisting the stabilization of industry and employment "by long-term budgeting of capital expenditures...by promoting the planning and timing of public works within the State and by the elimination of unplanned, untimely, unnecessary, and extravagant projects."

Under the Pennsylvania legislation, Mr. Blucher points out, the State Planning Board not only creates a master plan for state development but actually develops a financial and construction program which will inplement the carrying out of the master plan.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, August 21

Crime - Conference

Interstate Commission on Crime Meets

Legal measures and mechanical devices which the states can use jointly against their common enemy, the cross-country criminal, will be discussed by representatives of more than half the states when the Interstate Commission on Crime holds it second annual meeting in Boston today and tomorrow. (Aug. 21-22).

Chief subject of discussion will be progress of the model anti-crime bills drafted under the auspices of the Interstate Commission about eight months ago. The model bills are uniform acts concerning supervision of out-of-state parolees, close pursuit of criminals, compulsory attendance of witnesses from outside the state in criminal cases, and extradition of criminals. So far nine states have adopted one or more of these model bills.

Attorneys-general of six states--Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont--and Assistant Attorney General of the United States Justin Miller will preside over sectional meetings, which will deal with special topics such as the extention of court jurisdiction to cross boundary lines, interstate detection and apprehension bureaus, fingerprinting of motor vehicle owners and operators, and crime prevention programs in the schools.

A joint meeting will be held with the criminal law section of the American Bar Association, whose president, William L. Ransom, will also address the Commission in one of its own meetings.

Several addresses by prominent officials in the field of criminal law and enforcement will be heard by the delegates. Gov. Paul V. McNutt, of Indiana, Past National Commander of the American Legion, will talk on "The Public, the Legion, and Crime." Sanford Bates, director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, will speak on "Federal and Interstate Cooperation as to Parolees." John J. Hannan, president of the Association of States Signatory to the Prison Labor Compact, will discuss "Interstate Cooperation on Prison Labor." Attorney General Homer S. Cummings will be the speaker at the joint dinner with the American Bar Association.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, August 22

(Govtl. research. Directories)

Catalog of Governmental Fact Finders

More than 400 agencies and institutions carrying on governmental research work are listed in the 1936 Directory of Organizations Engaged in Governmental Research just published by the Governmental Research Association, Chicago. This organization is composed of men and women professionally engaged in governmental research--the investigation of the operating and administrative problems of cities, counties, states and the federal government.

The recent dates of founding given for many of the organizations indicate that there has been a greatly increasing interest in governmental research during the past five years.

Agencies concerned with problems of particular city and county governments number 116. These include independent, citizen-supported bureaus of municipal research, citizen leagues and taxpayers' associations doing governmental research work, bureaus of municipal research maintained by city and county governments, and municipal reference libraries.

Over 200 agencies conducting research in problems of state governments or concerned with the common problems of local governments throughout a single state are listed in the Directory. This state section includes state taxpayers' associations, other state-wide citizen-supported governmental research organizations, bureaus of governmental research of state universities, state leagues of municipalities and state tax commissions. Other state governmental research agencies such as state planning boards and legislative reference bureaus are mentioned but not listed, since such lists have been compiled by other national agencies.

In the section of the Directory devoted to national research agencies working in the field of government there are 127 organizations listed. These include national organizations of public officials maintaining research staffs, national citizen organizations, a few bureaus and research units of the federal government and a large number of other national agencies of various types like trade associations, foundations, banks, magazines, etc.

Approximately 900 research workers employed on the staffs of the agencies are named in the Directory. Nearly one-third of them are members of the Governmental Research Association.

AUG 21 1936

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, August 24

W Training - Police

Traffic Cops in the Expert Class

Police officers who wish to become traffic specialists are offered a nine-months' course of traffic study and training in "America's Safest City"--Evanston, Illinois. The offer has been made by the Traffic Safety Institute of Northwestern University, which under a grant of the newly established Kemper Foundation, has five to ten fellowships available for the school year beginning in October, 1936.

The course is to include the study of scientific methods of detection, particularly as applied to traffic accidents, in the scientific crime detection laboratory of Northwestern University. Special instruction in safety subjects closely related to police traffic administration will be provided by the staff of the National Safety Council. The fellowship students will also participate in setting up an accident prevention bureau in one or more cities. There are no educational prerequisites for the fellowships, which will be awarded on the basis of local and regional examinations.

Increasing attention to the traffic side of police work is reported by the Police Chiefs News Letter, bulletin of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, which describes the success of two traffic schools held this summer. The Southern Traffic Officers' Training School, at the University of Alabama in July, graduated 79 police officers who represented every southern state but two. The New England Traffic Officers' Training School, sponsored by the Harvard Bureau for Street Traffic Research and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, had an advance enrollment of more than 75 officers. Tentative plans are under way for a similar regional traffic training school to be held at Rutgers University, in New Jersey, next spring.

Northwestern University's Traffic Officers' Training School, pioneer in the field, will hold its fourth annual session in Evanston, October 12-24. Enrollment in the basic course will be limited to 60 police officers, but 20 officers who have scored high grades in previous attendance at the school will be invited to take an advanced course, never before scheduled, which will provide specialized study on certain phases of the traffic problem. Another new feature of the Institute this year is the highway patrol officers' training school, which will be held in November.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, August 25

Housing - Federal aid

Paying the Service Charges on Low-Rent Housing Projects

Cities should not conclude that the federal government's decision to pay service charges on low-rent housing developments gives them an opportunity to enlarge their revenues at the expense of the federal government. All service charges they levy fall on the tenants of the projects, who are in no financial position to contribute much toward local governmental expenses. Coleman Woodbury, executive director of the National Association of Housing Officials, makes this point in a current bulletin to Association members.

In conformity with the provisions of the George-Healey-Russell bill, he explains, the Public Works Administration will shortly be negotiating with a number of cities about paying for street lighting, sewerage, water, and other municipal services supplied to the low-rent government housing projects. These payments are in lieu of local taxes on the properties.

Mr. Woodbury emphasizes that the PWA Housing Division has "absolutely no power to make annual grants to meet service charges nor any other running expense. Every cent that the municipality collects in service charges will have to be paid out of the meager incomes of the families who will live in the housing developments."

Negotiations under the George-Healey-Russell bill should rather be undertaken in the spirit of determining what limits should be placed upon the local governments' subsidy to these housing developments, advises Mr. Woodbury. Before the passage of the bill, he points out, it seemed that local governments would be forced to make a subsidy of 100 per cent tax exemption, to supplement the 45 per cent capital grant of the PWA. Now it is possible for the local officials and the PWA to agree on a local subsidy somewhat less than complete tax exemption.

"The traditional rivalries among federal, state and local governments should not blind anyone to these basic facts, nor to several other important considerations," Mr. Woodbury adds. Cities must consider:

1. That, granting good management, which will be largely a responsibility of local housing officials, the PWA low-rent housing projects ought to be genuine social assets in the life of any city or metropolitan area.

2. That the gravest problem in all low-rent housing programs is to keep the rents low.

3. That one of the surest ways of hastening the process of decentralizing responsibility for low-rent housing developments is for the local communities to show their interest in the objectives of low-rent housing by substantial contributions to the unavoidable costs of the undertaking.

4. That because of the PWA's 45 per cent capital grant, a service charge equivalent to or nearly equivalent to full taxes not only would be of no assistance to the project, but would, in fact, levy upon the families living in the development a charge for local governmental expenses much beyond their ability to pay.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, August 26

Apprentices to Government

Los Angeles County government has borrowed a trick from another trade which its Board of Supervisors finds worth keeping. Several years ago, the Board agreed to apprentice one student from each of the four large universities in the state to the county's Bureau of Efficiency. After a year of practical training, the apprentices were to get a chance at regular service for the county or were to be recommended for government employment elsewhere.

This year the Board of Supervisors, checking over records of the experiment, decided to double the number of apprentices, placing eight instead of four at work. The record revealed that all except two of the men who served as apprentices during the past three years have entered permanent positions in the county service and those two are in governmental work elsewhere.

The City of Los Angeles may follow the County's example with a similar plan, if its Council approves the mayor's charter amendment recently submitted. This amendment would provide for assigning college-trained apprentices to administrative departments of the city government for two-year appointments. The mayor suggests filling the apprenticeships by competitive examination.

Other cities have used apprenticeships as a means of training candidates for careers in various departments of government. A questionnaire sent out by the International City Managers' Association recently revealed that 15 of 20 city managers replying had employed apprentices at one time or another. All but five of the apprentices made a berth later in the city government or elsewhere in governmental work. The apprentice plan is strongly recommended by the Association's national committee on training.

The University of Cincinnati has an arrangement with the city government by which students of public administration are apprenticed to the city hall while in college. Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Mich., recently copied this plan. In New York City Mayor LaGuardia has set up an apprentice training plan in the city hall.

Wichita, Kans., has established apprentice training for the students at the municipal university who wish to enter the police service. They do police duty part of each day while they are enrolled in the school and are paid a small salary.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, August 27

State Laws on Child Labor Grow Stricter

Federal regulation of child labor is still a thing of the future--until at least a dozen more states approve the constitutional amendment--but individually the states are making their child labor laws more strict. According to a summary of child labor laws passed in 1936 which appears in the current issue of State Government, magazine of the Council of State Governments, five of the nine state legislatures meeting in regular session took steps to strengthen former labor statutes. A sixth--Louisiana--created a Department of Labor, placing under its direction the labor functions formerly administered by five different agencies.

Massachusetts broadened restrictions on night work for women to include girls under 21, and to cover all manufacturing and mechanical establishments. An investigation to determine in which occupations the minimum age of employables should be raised from 16 to 18 was authorized.

New York's legislators decreed that minors under 18 must not be employed as workers or entertainers on premises used for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages. They also empowered city boards of education to require school attendance of unemployed children from 16 to 17.

The Rhode Island General Assembly made it unlawful to hire a child under 16 to work in any manufacturing or mechanical establishment and restricted the employment of those under 16 in business or mercantile establishments to a 40-hour week and an 8-hour day within the hours of 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. Minors under 18 and women have been limited to a 48-hour week in manufacturing, mechanical, or mercantile establishments. Rhode Island's legislators also made 16 the compulsory school attendance age, eliminating the former exception allowing 15-year-olds to work if regularly employed. They provided too for an investigation, to be followed by directory orders, to establish minimum standards of working conditions for minors under 21 employed in trade and industry.

South Carolina has a new Department of Labor under an act passed in the 1936 legislative session. It also declared that a 40-hour week with an 8-hour day would prevail for all workers in South Carolina cotton, rayon, silk, and woolen mills when and if Georgia and North Carolina adopt similar bills.

Virginia's General Assembly raised the minimum age for employment in certain hazardous occupations from 16 to 18 years of age.

No one of the six states passing child labor laws in 1936 has ratified the federal child-labor amendment, which is an enabling provision that gives Congress power to pass federal child-labor legislation. Twenty-four states have so far approved this amendment, 18 within the past three years. Ratification by thirty-six states is needed to put the amendment into effect.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Friday, August 28

Motor vehicles - Parking

Parking Meters

Parking meters--a boon to police for relieving traffic congestion and promoting public safety, or a tax bane to the motorist who will avoid the town that has them? Which it is cannot definitely be proved from the accumulated experience of cities that have adopted the robot parking policemen during the past six months or a year, says Clifford W. Ham, executive director of the American Municipal Association.

But whatever the decision, the use of the meters is growing. The American Municipal Association, surveying the country for true experience stories, found that from May, 1935, when Oklahoma City first adopted machine-metered parking, to August 1, 1936, almost a score of cities have installed one of the four kinds of meters on the market. These include St. Petersburg, Fla. (pop. 41,300); El Paso, Tex. (pop. 102,421); Miami, Fla. (pop. 111,700); Oklahoma City, Okla. (pop. 185,389); Dallas, Tex. (pop. 260,475); Fort Worth, Tex. (pop. 163,447); Kansas City, Mo. (pop. 399,746); Houston, Tex. (pop. 292,352); Hutchinson, Kans. (pop. 27,085) and others.

To legalize the parking meters, the cities have passed ordinances with varying provisions regarding the amount of fines for violation, collection of the returns time limit of parking, and so forth.

Half the ordinances provide explicit means for the collection and handling of returns from the meters. Dallas, El Paso and Fort Worth give the job to the police department. In Kansas City the public works department performs the duty, and in Seattle, it is the city treasurer who does it. El Paso's ordinance gives 85 per cent of the returns to the meter fund and the city's general fund gets the remainder.

Dallas and St. Petersburg impose fines--maximum, $200--not only upon violators of the meter ordinances but upon those who aid or abet in the law-breaking. In Dallas an overparking complaint may be satisfied, however, by payment of $1.00 if the notice of overparking is presented to the traffic bureau within 24 hours. El Paso and Fort Worth set the maximum fine at $100; Miami, $50 and not over 30 days' imprisonment; or both, at the discretion of the municipal judge. Oklahoma City fines up to $19 and Hutchinson, Kans., $10.

Parking limits run from 20 minutes to an hour for the customary nickel fee. The meters do not general operate on Sundays and holidays, and none of the cities use the meters between 6:30 P.M. and 7 A.M. In St. Petersburg 68 meters were discontinued on June 1, after the busy winter season.

Most of the cities have collected fairly large sums from the meters. From January through June St. Petersburg collected $5,683.70; Miami, $20,342.20 from February through June. Fort Worth collected over $6,000 in June alone, and $1,200 in July. Hutchinson, Kans. derived $103.10 the first ten days of installation and $210 the second.

Parking meter ordinances in present cases are generally considered as measures for police traffic regulation. Funds derived from the meters are therefore usuable chiefly for the purpose of traffic control, inspection fees and other expenses involved in maintaining and operating the meters, which cost from $30 to $58 apiece at the start.

The meters have been put to and have passed the test of legality in two cases: Oklahoma City and Miami, Fla., but appellate courts have not yet had occasion to make pronouncement upon them.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Saturday, August 29

Taxation. Conflicts

There Are Tax Tangles Worse Than Duplication

Duplicate taxes do not necessarily mean tax conflicts between the different units of government. The conflict comes when the aggregate tax rate, as the result of each unit's ignoring the other, puts a topheavy load on certain taxpayers. Or there may be a clash because of exemptions and inconsistent administrative procedures.

So says James W. Martin, Commissioner of Revenue of Kentucky, who describes present-day tax tangles in State Government, magazine of the Council of State Governments.

The most irritating direct conflicts between local and state tax policies are in the field of excise and occupational taxes, according to Mr. Martin. He cites the case of liquor and beer licenses. In states which have adopted a license policy of dealing with liquor control, he says, there is "almost invariably a controversy between the state and local governments for the revenue from license taxes," and in many cases the total of taxes is so high as to encourage bootlegging.

Occupational taxes tell much the same story for ten to fifteen states. In Kentucky, for example, the state government requires people following two dozen different occupations to become licensed, and practically all cities demand additional taxes of the same people. Restaurants and drug stores, engaged in carrying on several of the occupations that demand licenses, are thereby particularly burdened.

As a case of local-federal conflict, Mr. Martin points to the removal of property and business from the field of local taxation through federal ownership. State and local governments also lack taxing jurisdiction on federal reservations ceded by state legislatures. Thus localities are not only restrained from imposing property, occupational, excise, or even death and income taxes on such reservations, but businesses paying such taxes in nearby communities must compete with the tax-free businesses on the reservation.

Local governments suffer again from federal-state conflicts that interfere with states wishing to make substantial grants-in-aid and to distribute proceeds of state-administered taxes. A state may vote to support education, welfare and highways, financing these activities by various taxes, but federal exemptions from state taxes can shrink revenues to a disastrous degree, as well as obstruct administration of taxes on enterprises that ordinarily are subject to tax.

Nothing can be done about the exemptions in the case of federal reservations already ceded by the states, Mr. Martin observes, but in the future states might well reserve their taxing jurisdiction over such property.

Interferences between state and local tax plans in the field of license and excise taxes on liquor may be greatly reduced, he says, by agreement between state and local units determining which is to put the heavy tax on the manufacturing end and which on the retailing end.

The federal-local situation can be greatly improved, Mr. Martin believes, by adoption of a federal policy of granting states and localities full taxing privileges, assuming that this can be done constitutionally.

AUG 28 1936

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, August 31

City Planning and Airport Location

The growing air-mindedness of the American people is stimulating the construction of airports in every part of the country. And builders of airports, commercial or municipal, will do well to recognize the relation between city planning and airport location, says Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials. They can then avoid the predicament of Chicago, whose municipal airport may shortly be declared second-class because of inadequate space facilities.

Chicago's airport, which accommodated an impressive amount of air business for years, has become too cramped for the increasing traffic of the new giant passenger transports. Railroad tracks running across one end of the air field allow no room for expansion to provide landing facilities for the big planes, which require a 1 to 7 clearance -- 7 feet of horizontal distance for each foot of height.

If the airport's location had been decided upon originally with the expectation of greatly increased air traffic and larger planes, Mr. Blucher points out, it would not have been placed where the bordering territory would prevent expansion.

"We have been prone in the past to consider the airport separately, and not in relation to other physical factors," says Mr. Blucher. "It has been customary to locate ports on vacant land as near to the city center as possible. If the road to the city was poor or transportation was hampered in other ways, this proximity meant little in terms of speed. New York, for example, is an hour away from its airport in Newark; Buffalo is 40 minutes from the landing field; and Chicago's "loop" is 50 minutes from the municipal airport.

"When the airport is considered as an element of the community plan, however, adequacy of highways and means of transportation, and the airport's proximity to the city in terms of time instead of space will have an important bearing on its location."

If an airport is located within the city limits, says Mr. Blucher, zoning laws may be invoked to control heights of buildings, gas tanks and other structures that might offer obstacles to clear landing. He points out, however, that in airport construction, zoning regulations can impose no more stringent limits than those laid down for the general character of the district in which the port is located.

--T H E R E IS A N O T H E R R E L E A S E ON THE N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, September 1

43 States to be Asked to Cooperate on Crime Laws

Forty-three state legislatures that convene in 1937 will start a legal war against "commuting criminals" by cooperating in the passage of certain anti-crime laws if urgent recommendations of the Interstate Commission on Crime, which met recently in Boston, are followed. The Council of State Governments will aid the Commission, for which it acts as secretariat, in presenting to the state legislatures the four-point program the Commission mapped out soon after its organization a year ago. This program would simplify the procedure of extraditing criminals, would facilitate the summoning of out-of-state witnesses, would allow officers to cross state lines to arrest fleeing suspects, and would permit interstate compacts for supervision of persons on parole.

The Commission went on record as approving a number of other measures to facilitate apprehension of criminals:

It urged the introduction of teletype and radio communication systems into the states now without them, and their increased use elsewhere. It advocated the establishment of state bureaus of identification and investigation in the states not as yet so equipped. It favored legislation to curb the sale of firearms. It sought national support for an educational program of crime prevention, starting in the schools.

The Commission recommended that Congress extend the activities of the Department of Justice to include a clearing house of information on crime control methods and additional training for law-enforcement officials in state and local governmental agencies.

The American Legion has pledged formal backing of the crime commission's program. So far New York and New Jersey have adopted all four statutes advocated; Rhode Island has adopted three; and Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota and Virginia have each approved one.

Official representatives from 25 states and the federal government attended the Boston meeting of the Interstate Commission on Crime.

--T H E R E IS A N O T H E R R E L E A S E ON THE N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Wednesday, September 2

Managing a City's Real Estate

Non-payment of taxes on $,161,000 worth of property has put Boston in the real estate business, and the Boston Municipal Research Bureau advises making a permanent and separate agency of the real estate division created in the public buildings department last fall. Many other American cities could profitably follow this advice, says Elton D. Woolpert, of the International City Managers' Association, writing in the organization's magazine, Public Management.

Management of municipal real estate, Mr. Woolpert points out, has been one of the most neglected phases of local administration, although municipal buildings, parks, and playgrounds represent vast land holdings. A private institution would consider their management a major function, but few American cities have even a complete list of their holdings.

The municipal real estate office has the obvious duties of keeping complete and accurate records of all property owned by the city, and of helping handle condemnation and purchasing proceedings so that the city is not victimized by sharp speculators. But it also has a bigger job, Mr. Woolpert says:

By rentals or leases it can turn into sources of revenue the city-owned properties which are being held for advantageous sale. Milwaukee collected $40,000 for the city treasury in this way in 1935.

It can improve on the disposal of properties. Instead of holding the customary auction, which frequently disposes of property at a loss, the competent real estate agent will have on file prospective buyers he can notify, or by checking against the city plan and against estimates of future needs, it may be found that a profitable exchange of property can be made instead of inprofitable sale.

It can turn tax-foreclosed properties to the city's financial credit. Only a few cities have realized this. These cities have made investigations of all properties which have been foreclosed or are due to be, to determine whether any parcels may be needed by the city for public improvement. They have concluded that it is poor economy to sell a foreclosed property for what little it may bring on the market if they must soon buy it back at a much higher price. One city not only collects rents on foreclosed improved properties but lets out, rent free, vacant lots for gardens to people on relief, thus eliminating the expense of cutting weeds and keeping the lots in good condition.

Small cities as well as large ones may profit by having a real estate office, according to Mr. Woolpert, although in the smaller ones a part-time official may suffice. Extent of the city's holdings and the volume of its real estate transactions, rather than the population, are the determining factors. Asheville, N.C., with a little over 50,000 population, is the smallest city to have a full-time real estate agent at present. Other cities which have them are: Milwaukee, Newark, Rochester, Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco.

-- T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E --

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, September 3

Michigan's First Two Steps

Thirty-seven Michigan prison guards recently received certificates of eligibility following a course in the state's first prison guard training school and thus Michigan made its initial move toward a state merit system. As a second step, the governor authorized the use of civil service procedure in the employment of all state and county emergency relief employees.

The legislature, which meets in January, must now decide whether these provisions are to become permanent, and whether the merit system is to be extended to all state departments. A bill designed to make the merit system permanent and inclusive already has been drafted by the bi-partisan Civil Service Study Commission which has just completed a lengthy study of personnel administration in Michigan state offices.

The civil service measure proposed would cover approximately all the 14,000 state employees. Only elective officials, appointive executives, the state police -- already under a merit system -- teachers, and a few minor classifications are excluded. Administration of the system would be by a commission of four members, with provisions against control by any political party. Those persons now holding state jobs that would be included under civil service would have to qualify in open tests to retain them.

A million-dollar saving each year is predicted for Michigan if the proposed civil service bill is adopted. This sum was arrived at by analyzing many factors. After every election and induction of the governor, for example, there was indicated a distinct rise in number of employees, one year showing a climb from slightly over 12,000 to nearly 20,000. Political assessments on spoils-appointed employees were found to be between 1 and 2 per cent of their salaries each year, which means a cost of at least $150,000 to taxpayers. It is estimated that upwards of $500,000 a year is dissipated through the loss of experienced workers and the training of new ones. While the job is being learned, both the new man and the old who is teaching him are paid salaries; for an average 25 per cent labor turnover, this has cost taxpayers $438,750 a year. Absence of payroll classifications costs thousands of dollars -- salaries of clerks doing identical work in different departments may vary between $960 and $2,800. Stenographers receiving $2,100 in one agency may do no more work than those in another who are paid $900.

The five-member Civil Service Study Commission, which went to work last October, spent $10,000 to make this survey that put a finger upon possible economies totaling $1,000,000. State departments lent their employees without cost to the commission, and a group of National Youth Administration workers were also placed at the commission's disposal. Public Administration Service and the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada were called in for technical advice.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, September 4

Finance Officers to Meet

The Municipal Finance Officers' Association of the United States and Canada, which was founded in 1906 as the National Association of Comptrollers and Accounting Officers, will hold its annual conference in Toronto, Canada, Sept. 9-11. Speakers of prominence from England and Canada, as well as from the United States, will be on the three-day program.

Chief among the discussions will be: "The Revenue Problem of Local Governments," by Henry F. Long, commissioner of corporations and taxation of Massachusetts; "Organization of Local Government Officials in England," by L. Hill, general secretary of the National Association of Local Government Officials, of London, England;" Trends of Municipal Debt in Canada," by Thomas Bradshaw, North American Life Insurance Co., Toronto; and "Social Security," in the United States by Fred K. Hoehler, executive director of the American Public Welfare Association, and in Canada by Gerald Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister of Labour of Canada. Breakfast round-table sessions have been arranged for Sept. 10 and 11. Attendants at these sessions will informally discuss such subjects as tax collection methods, municipal accounting essentials, administration of defaulted municipalities, public utility accounting, use and control of special assessments, purchasing procedures, internal audits, and tax limitations.

The active membership of the Municipal Finance Officers' Association is composed of public officials such as auditors, comptrollers, accounting officers, and treasurers of counties, cities, towns, and villages, as well as state and federal officials concerned with local finance and accounting. Many accountants specializing in municipal work are associate members. The association has more than 500 members.

The president of the Municipal Finance Officers' Association is G. A. Lascelles, executive secretary, Treasury Department of the City of Toronto.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, September 5

Unemployment Compensation Administration Costs

Administration of the unemployment insurance law costs each Wisconsin employer $2.24; in New Hampshire this cost is $6.60. The cost per employee is 2.7 cents and 14 cents, respectively. These facts are contained in a report just published by Public Administration Service and based on a survey conducted by the Committee on Public Administration of the Social Science Research Council. Wisconsin was chosen as one of the states for study because its law is the oldest -- it became this month the first state to pay unemployment insurance benefits -- and New Hampshire was the other state selected for study because it has been collecting both employer and employee contributions for unemployment insurance since the first of the year.

The wide disparity in unit cost of administration is due mainly, it is pointed out, to the fact that New Hampshire requires that detailed employee reports be kept in the central office, whereas Wisconsin does not. Wisconsin keeps 4,800 employer ledgers and none for its 380,000 employees; New Hampshire keeps 1,700 employer ledgers and 80,000 employee ledgers. Wisconsin makes 4,800 entries per month; New Hampshire makes almost 82,000 entries per week, or 328,000 entries per month.

The Committee's reporter, Walter Matscheck, formerly director of the Kansas City Civic Research Institute, found Wisconsin's administration "more smooth and frictionless in its operation" than New Hampshire's, but he observes that there might be less contrast if the length of experience corresponded. When the study was made Wisconsin had finished two years of administration and New Hampshire six months.

Neither state can show a long enough experience to be pointed to as a model of workability and efficiency, though the data obtained in the study may aid other states, the Committee hopes, in perfecting their procedures. The report is an introduction to a survey of unemployment compensation administration scheduled to be extended to twelve or fifteen other states.

(MORE)

There are several major differences between the New Hampshire and Wisconsin laws, the report points out. John Brown who works in a shoe factory in New Hampshire contributes ½ of 1 per cent of his wages in 1936 and 1 per cent in 1937 and thereafter to the pooled unemployment compensation fund. The company he works for contributes 1 per cent of the payroll in 1936, 2 per cent in 1937 and 3 per cent in 1938 and thereafter. Bill Jones who works in a Wisconsin lumber-mill does not pay anything into the employer reserve fund used for unemployment compensation, but the mill owners contribute 2 per cent of the payroll now, 2.7 per cent in 1938, and later on, anywhere from nothing to 4 per cent. New Hampshire makes employers of four or more employees subject to the law, Wisconsin eight or more.

With respect to office work, both states had similar questions to decide: whether individual employee records should be kept in the department office; in what form they should be kept; how often employers should be required to report; and what procedures, files, record systems, and equipment should be used in the office.

Wisconsin decided against maintaining individual employee records in the department office, asking only for reports from employers for records of workers laid off or discharged. Monthly reports of total payrolls are required of employers. New Hampshire chose the plan of maintaining individual employee records, as well as employer records, in the division office. Weekly reports are required, although employers have the option of handing in their reports monthly. This state wishes to accumulate information for merit rating and for special studies of part-time employment and partial unemployment.

The overhead organizations in the two states are considerably different. In both, the unemployment compensation agency is a division of the labor department: the Industrial Commission in Wisconsin and the Bureau of Labor in New Hampshire. Wisconsin's Commission, a three-man body, takes an active part in the administration of the law, however, while the head of the New Hampshire Bureau has little to do with the unemployment compensation department. Wisconsin has an advisory committee as a link between the department and employers and employees, a feature entirely lacking in New Hampshire.

Wisconsin is using trained people, employed through civil service examination, to carry on the administrative work, which requires a staff of 56. New Hampshire, without state civil service, has had to develop a personnel system in the new department itself. The office force numbers 90.

Effectiveness of administration seems to be a little higher in the mid-western state, according to a comparison of the percentage of subject employers reporting. Thirty-seven per cent of the New Hampshire employers who should come under the act have so far failed to report, although the unemployment compensation department has a staff of 15 field administrators.

With experience, the Committee indicates it expects these two states and others which will be examined, to answer the really important questions about the administrative machinery for handling unemployment compensation: whether satisfactory records can be secured without current reporting of individual employee data to the central office, and what type of plan will be least burdensome to the employer and the employee.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936

Release: Monday, September 7

Assessing Officers to Meet

"One of the most unpopular, yet one of the most important public officers. The official 'finger man' whom few taxpayers greet with a smile. But the best guarantee honest taxpayers can have that their share in the tax burden will be as equitable as possible."

This is a thumb-nail sketch of the assessing officer, as drawn by Albert W. Noonan, technical director of the National Association of Assessing Officers, which will hold its second annual convention in Detroit, Sept. 23, 24, and 25.

"The interest that assessing officers take in their work is much greater than is is commonly supposed," says Mr. Noonan. "They are keenly aware of the need for constantly improving the standards of assessment practice -- a need which they found could best be supplied through the establishment of the National Association of Assessing Officers."

Assessing officers from every part of the country will attend the Detroit convention. Frank Couzens, mayor of Detroit, will welcome the delegates to his city. He will be followed by Kenneth J. McCarren, president of the association, and a member of the Detroit Board of Assessors. The rest of the three-day program includes the following discussions: "Getting Personal Property on the Rolls," by W.C. Hudson, Guilford County Tax Supervisor, Greensboro, N.C.; "Assessing Public Utility Property," by Dominic A. Trotta, commissioner of taxes and assessments of New York City, and Irwin Arnovitz, chairman of the Utah State Tax Commission; "Design and Use of Appraisal Forms," by John Warner, chief of the appraisal division, Cuyahoga County (Ohio) auditor's office; "Kentucky's Qualification Test for County Assessors," by John W. Martin, commissioner of revenue, state of Kentucky; "The Value of City Planning to Assessment Administration," by Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials; " "Reporting Assessment Statistics," by J.L.Jacobs, Chicago; "Essential Equipment of a Modern Assessment Office," by Mark E. Older, city assessor of Flint, Mich.; "A Tax Commission's Part in Improving Assessment Practice," by B.D.Crane, chief of the ad valorem division of the Oklahoma Tax Commission; and "Assessment Problems in Blighted Areas," by H. Gordon Bollman, chief of the administrative service division of the Cook County (Illinois) assessor's office. Henry F. Long, one of the outstanding tax authorities in America, who is commissioner of corporations and taxation of Massachusetts, will be the principal speaker at the annual banquet.

Breakfast round tables to be held Sept. 24 have been arranged for each of three groups: the state tax commissioners, the county assessors, and the city assessors. Entertainment features include a sightseeing tour of the city of Detroit, an inspection of the offices of the Detroit Board of Assessors, and a visit to Henry Ford's Greenfield Village and Rotunda.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Tuesday, September 8

(City Planning - N.Y.C.)

City Planning in New York City's New Charter

A non-partisan group of citizens has decided that the largest city in the country needs an official planning department. In recommending a new charter for the city of New York, the mayor-appointed New York Charter Commission emphasizes the importance of providing for a strong planning agency, free from political interference, which can prepare a master plan for all major capital improvements, recommend changes in the plan, pass upon revisions in the zoning ordinance, and develop a long-time planning program. The charter is to be voted upon at the coming November election.

New York City has been studied by the planning-minded from time to time, comments Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials. A few years ago extensive research work was done in preparing a regional plan for the metropolis and its environs. There has been no official governmental agency with power to prepare a long-time planning program, however, although, says Mr. Blucher, "it would seem obvious that a city which spends annually many millions of dollars for public improvements should have some positive and effective way of avoiding waste."

The new charter proposes that the planning commission consist of the chief engineer of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and six members, to be appointed by the mayor, with eight-year terms. The terms are to be overlapping, so that no one city administration can dominate the board. The board's independence is further safeguarded by the provision that any law passed by the city council changing the powers of the commission must be approved by a city-wide referendum. The chairman, also to be named by the mayor, would receive a salary of $15,000 a year. Each borough president, of which there are five, would appoint an advisory planning board of three members, serving without compensation.

"Some opposition to these provisions has developed," Mr. Blucher notes, "but this is to be expected. Much of the opposition is coming from four of the borough presidents, who heretofore have had control over the improvements in their boroughs. It is natural to expect that when some authority is to be taken from a person he will object to the change and will find reasons for not making it. During the last two years there has been ample demonstration that a planned program of public works will provide a community with needed public improvements, at the same time steering clear of waste, duplication and provision of unnecessary projects. Cincinnati is an outstanding example of a community which, because of an officially adopted master plan, has reaped large benefits from the various public works programs carried out during the emergency period."

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Wednesday, September 9

Overcrowded Housing Facilities

Attempts to regiment his life may make the average American see red, but when his actions contravene public morals, safety, welfare, or health, the properly constituted authority, even in this country, steps in to tell him what he may or may not do.

Though, in this country, housing legislation has not reached that point at which police authority raises a regulatory finger except where tenement house codes exist, it has in certain European countries, notably England. It should be profitable, therefore, says Coleman Woodbury, executive director of the National Association of Housing Officials, for interested Americans to study what is going on in England.

In 1935 an act of Parliament made overcrowding a statutory offense. "Overcrowding" was considered to have been committed when more than the permissible number of persons named in the act occupied a specified dwelling. The standard set was: 1-room house, 2 persons; 2-room house, 3 persons; 3 rooms, 5 persons; 4 rooms, 7½ persons; 5 rooms, 10 persons, with an additional 2 persons for each room in excess of five. A floor area of a room containing 110 sq.ft. could legally contain 2 persons; and a room containing but 50 sq.ft. could not legally contain even one person. Ninety square feet were considered a minimum for 1½ persons; 70 to 90 sq.ft. was legal for 1 person; and 50 to 70 sq.ft. legal for one-half person. A child under ten years counted as half a person. One under a year was not counted at all. Only those rooms which were habitually used as living or sleeping quarters were counted. This would eliminate kitchens and bathrooms.

In order to find out whether overcrowding existed the Ministry of Health started a survey. The survey has but recently been completed and some of its findings are now available. Almost 9,000,000 houses were inspected--a number approximately equal to the total number of houses in both England and Wales in 1931. Of this number it was found that slightly less than 4 per cent were overcrowded according to the standard set in the 1935 act. The worst sections were found to be parts of London and of the northeast coast. The survey also showed that another 4½ per cent of the population was close to the borderline of overcrowding. The Ministry of Health has decided that for a large part of the country the provisions against overcrowding will become operative January 1, 1937. After that date local governments will be empowered to cause the eviction of enough tenants to bring the occupancy down to the prescribed standards and also to levy fines against landlords who fail to report overcrowded conditions in their dwellings not already known by the local government.

As a word of warning, Mr. Woodbury says that, though "every intelligent person recognizes the dangers of applying experiences in one country to conditions in another, similarities often are more common and more significant than differences." He emphasizes the fact that housing problems in England and America are "sufficiently alike to justify analysis by us of what has been done and is being done in English housing."

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

Gambling - Regulation

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, September 10

Wichita Turns Cadet Police Loose on Slot Machines

Police chiefs who have difficulty in getting enough evidence with which to convict operators of gambling devices will be interested in this. Wichita, Kansas, is hiring youthful spotters to play slot machines and gain the needed evidence.

The spotters, according to the Police Chiefs' News Letter, official bulletin of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, are eight young Wichitans who have been named cadet officers of the city police department. Supplied with nickels, dimes and even quarters, they go out to play any slot machines they can find until they win. If the machines pay off in cash or awards when attention of the owner is called to the score, the information is passed on to the vice squad, which follows up with arrests and confiscation.

The first night the slot-machine detectives went into action they seized nine machines that played poker hands or spun numbers for the score. The police department intends to continue this method of obtaining evidence until the city is rid of gambling devices.

Regular "jack pot" slot machines and punchboards are barred by ordinance in Wichita. The city licenses 800 coin-operated slot-machines as amusement devices, but if they make awards they are classified as gambling devices and are liable to confiscation. The current drive against the petty gambling was undertaken because so many parents complained to the police department that their children spent their nickels and dimes in marble machines of various kinds.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Friday, September 11

Assistants for City Managers

No city manager is a profitable municipal investment if he has to be his own clerk or office boy. Economic depressions may multiply his administrative duties and make of him an "iron man", but the continued imposition of petty detail on a trained administrator is pure financial waste. These conclusions are reached by Clarence E. Ridley, executive director of the International City Managers' Association, in the current issue of Public Management, magazine of the organization.

The "iron-man" manager was necessary in many cities during the depression, Mr. Ridley admits, when retrenchment programs, lay-offs and salary cuts frequently burdened the city manager with extra work. But that time is past, he points out, and if a city is to get the greatest return from its investment in a trained manager, "it must relieve him of the burden of petty detail in order that he can plan, direct, and coordinate the city administration."

Mr. Ridley's remedy for this managerial overwork is the provision of assistant city managers, of whom there are now comparatively few, according to a survey made recently by the International City Managers' Association. Only 33 of 98 city managers questioned reported that they had assistant managers, and a number of these assistantships carried the title of secretary only.

Of the 33 cities which reported having assistant city managers, 5 are under 10,000 population; 10 are cities of 10,000 to 50,000; and 18 are over 50,000. Two-thirds of the assistant managers have been appointed to their present positions since 1932.

There is considerable variation from city to city in the duties and responsibilities of the position of assistant city manager. In Ames, Iowa , city of 10,000, he performs duties involving engineering work and general administrative affairs. The assistant manager of Bristol, Virginia (9,000) attends to all office details, purchasing, and water department billing. In Charlottesville, Virginia (15,000) he devotes most of his time to public works. It is mainly in the larger cities such as Cincinnati, Dallas and Dayton that the assistant city manager is in fact and deed an understudy.

Two main advantages accrue from the appointment of real assistant city managers, Mr. Ridley finds. Not only can the city manager be relieved of some of his routine duties, leaving him free for more important affairs, but the assistant can train himself for a managership through practical experience. City managers should make this contribution to a career system in government, Mr. Ridley believes.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois
1936
Release: Saturday, September 12

Veterans' Preference and Public Employment

Landing a public job has been much easier for the war veteran than for the unemployed man who has never seen military service, according to figures contained in "Public Personnel Administration," authored jointly by William E. Mosher, director of the Syracuse School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and Dr. J. Donald Kingsley, assistant professor of government at Antioch College. The book, which covers all phases of public personnel work, has just been published by Harper and Brothers.

In the federal service the rules as of 1933 provide for preferences to veterans along the lines of recruitment, qualifications and certification, appointment and retention in office. "The advantages granted are of such a sweeping character and applicable to such a great number of ex-soldiers and their wives," say the authors, "that the quality of the federal service is bound to be materially affected, if not seriously undermined, by the influx of thousands who would have no standing without the benefit of these preferential provisions." From 1919 to 1933 almost 717,000 appointments were made in the federal service. Of this number 179,000, or 25 per cent, were preference appointments.

Although the federal preference provisions are more sweeping than many of those found in other political jurisdictions, 25 of the states have accorded veterans some form of legal preference. In Tennessee and Texas the laws apply only to the licensing of teachers. In most instances the state preference laws apply to local subdivisions, thereby greatly multiplying the opportunities which veterans have in securing public employment. In 23 states disabled veterans are eligible to preference; in all 23 states save New York all honorably discharged veterans are eligible. Widows of veterans are given preference in California, Indiana, Kansas and Washington; and Indiana extends the courtesy to wives of disabled veterans, and to sons and daughters of veterans. Orphans of veterans are eligible to preference in Kansas.

State preference laws also protect the veteran after he has entered the service. He is given an increased examination rating in six states; priority of certification in six others; priority of appointment in fifteen states; his physical or age requirements are waived in twelve; he is given credit for experience in three; and an absolute preference is indicated in nine states. Six states have set up special safeguards against a veteran's discharge; four place limitations upon the reduction of his compensation; and five states give him a general preference when lay-offs are imminent.

"Public Personnel Administration," though primarily of interest to the student of public administration, contains much valuable data for the lay reader. It is, according to Henry F. Hubbard, assistant director of the Civil Service Assembly, "a book which should be read by every public official and by every citizen interested in better government personnel."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, September 14

U. C. L.
LIBRARY
SEP 12 1936

Civil Service on Every Front

Action favoring the merit system on every governmental front--local, state and federal--is being taken in unprecedented degree, according to the September issue of the Civil Service Assembly News Letter, which reports current developments in civil service.

Two federal agencies not officially under civil service provisions will adopt merit principles in selecting personnel in the near future. Beginning October 1, two-thirds of the employees of the Federal Rural Electrification Administration will come under civil service by non-competitive examination. Future appointments to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board and its subsidiaries are to be made under the supervision of the Civil Service Commission. This includes the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, with over 15,000 employees.

In Arkansas the Democratic nominee for governor, who is the present attorney-general, has named an honorary commission of three members to survey the operation of the merit system throughout the country and to recommend a law. An executive and accountant heads the commission, whose members are serving without pay. A newspaper editor and an attorney are the other members.

Arkansas is one of at least nine states giving serious thought to civil service for state, county or city employees. In two of these states--Washington and California--voters will make the decision at the polls in November. The Washington bill would blanket under civil service all governmental units. California's proposed act would make civil service mandatory for cities, and would include port, park and school districts. Alabama, Connecticut, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Virginia are the other states in which proposals for civil service laws may be placed before legislatures at their next sessions.

Welfare agencies of five states which do not have state civil service laws have adopted merit systems. They are in Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Oklahoma and Texas.

Approximately 10,000 county employees in Ohio will probably be placed under the state civil service law by a recent decision of the state supreme court.

Seven municipalities are reported as considering civil service for one or all departments of government. Duluth, Minn., Portland, Ore., Tulsa, Okla., Tuscon, Ariz., Racine, Wis., Royal Oak, Mich. and Wayne County, Mich. are on this list. Wauwatosa, Wis. last month adopted a civil service ordinance which covers nearly all its public employees.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 1936
Release: Tuesday, September 15

Traffic Direction from the Air

Airplanes and blimps may soon become the eyes of metropolitan traffic police if experiments made recently in Ohio and Illinois are generally adopted, according to the Police Chiefs' News Letter, official bulletin of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Cleveland's Deputy Traffic Commissioner Blecke took up a blimp equipped with a short-wave radio by which he could transmit instructions directly to the city's 25 police radio patrol cars. From his aerial vantage point he could note unexpected road congestions anywhere in the city area, and call traffic patrolmen to the location to assist the officer on the beat. By the same system, Commissioner Blecke believes, it will be possible to keep fleeing criminals in view while directing police cars on the ground to block roads and close in on the suspects.

Chief Lester J. Laird, of the Cook County, Illinois, highway police, recently used an airplane to clear up the Sunday traffic jam. Employing facilities of a commercial radio station, he talked to motorists and highway patrol cars on the arterial highways over short-wave radio. Highway policemen stationed at strategic points along the various roads received instructions from Chief Laird to reroute cars from congested roads to less crowded ones, thus averting frozen lines of traffic. From the air it was easy to spot the key cars holding up traffic and to release the tie-up by their removal, and Sunday evening motorists returning from recreation spots were directed how to reach home with minimum delay.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Wednesday, September 16

Beneficial Effects of Rural Zoning

County zoning, present-day method employed to control the use of rural land in the interests of public welfare, is creating a beneficial effect on the locality of its first trial--northern Wisconsin. Better provision for public health and more economical school service are two results of the three-year old movement, according to a report received by the American Society of Planning Officials.

The 23 Wisconsin counties which have enacted rural zoning ordinances have now restricted some 5,000,000 acres of land against agricultural development and legal settlement. They are used instead as forestry and recreation areas.

Many of the zoned counties have already adopted vigorous programs for the demolition of all abandoned buildings on county-owned lands, says the report. Private land owners have followed the policy voluntarily and are dismantling unused buildings on their properties.

Isolated settlers are being moved. A number of the counties on their own initiative and with their own funds have assisted individual families to relocate. One town which originally had a total population of seven families and one hermit will now consist solely of the hermit, the families having been relocated and the lands added to the county forest, which already covered three-fourths of the area.

In the towns of Three Lakes and Pine Lake in Oneida County, consolidation of schools has taken place. Three Lakes now operates one school instead of six; Pine Lake, one instead of five.

Within the last three years, the report points out, many families have been prevented from purchasing, or, in some cases merely taking squatters' rights on, isolated lands in these northern counties where health service and good roads and schools were frequently out of the question because of the excessive per capita cost. They have been forced to secure land in the unrestricted districts "where their opportunity for obtaining good farm land close to schools, neighbors, community centers and markets is infinitely better....Studies made and plans developed during the past several years by state and county agencies indicate that there are real possibilities in a voluntary and wisely-planned relocation program. Economies in road, school, public health and relief costs are the direct and immediate results of such a program to the towns, counties, and the state. Improved citizenship and improved morale are the less visible but vitally important consequences of relocation work."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936

Release: Thursday, September 17

Checking Tax Evasions and Exemptions

While citizens of some states are agitating for further exemptions from property taxes, in other jurisdictions special efforts are being made to reduce exemption privileges and curtail tax evasions. According to the National Association of Assessing Officers, stricter laws on exemptions and careful assessment revaluations are securing for many local governmental units taxes that have long been eluding assessing officers.

At least two states--New York and Tennessee--have tightened up on institutional exemptions. Tennessee's new law specifies that real estate, to be exempt, must be occupied by the institution or its officers while they are carrying out the purpose for which the institution was created. Nashville alone is reported to have added $2,500,000 to the 1936 assessment rolls as a result of the law.

The New York City Board of Tax Commissioners re-examined and put back on the tax rolls over 400 properties held by religious, benevolent, educational and other institutions which had previously claimed exemption. The properties, which included cemeteries, schools, boarding houses, hotels, parsonages and hospitals, added about $100,000,000 in assessable property.

A change in the Pennsylvania personal property tax law seeks to nullify the device of placing intangible personal property in a trust outside the state to avoid taxation. Hitherto it had been rather common practice for people to put their intangible personal property in the hands of a trustee legally domiciled in another jurisdiction which had a lighter tax burden. The new measure specially places a tax on the equitable interest of any resident in any trust, when the trustee is a non-resident. In King County (Seattle) Washington, a revaluation program has resulted in restoring many parcels of property--both real and personal--to the tax rolls. During 29 working days 159 buildings were discovered which had never before been assessed. A standard assessment system is now being installed with the aid of WPA.

Virginia is conducting a long-term statistical study of land value and assessment trends as a WPA project under the sponsorship of the State Department of Taxation. In addition to revealing omitted and misdescribed property it is expected to show the influence on land values of the extension and improvement of highways, railroads, increases and decreases of population density, industrial developments, public schools, building restrictions, zoning and other factors.

The New York City Department of Taxes and Assessments is having 33 valuation experts make a special study of the property of railroads, telephone and telegraph, electric light and power, and gas companies. A similar study made last year increased utility assessments from $541,000,000 to $743,961,325.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, September 18

Specialized Cities

Specialized American cities--factory towns, college towns and the like--can be defined statistically, says Professor William F. Ogburn, University of Chicago sociologist, writing in the September issue of Public Management, journal of the International City Managers' Association.

Some of the distinguishing characteristics of the seven kinds of specialized cities that Professor Ogburn examines are obvious, he says: Atlantic City has numerous hotels. Gary has many mill workers. State capitals have a preponderance of clerical workers. Less obvious are the facts shown by statistical analyses of groups of the cities. From such analyses he found that:

Cities with much of their population engaged in trade have a higher percentage of servants and more professional people than the average city, although the annual rate of earnings is lower. The average house rent, $26, is a little lower in trade towns, and so is the average value of homes occupied by their owners--$4,560. There are few foreign born among the population. A fairly large per cent are married.

In factory towns the percentage of the people working as maids or personal secretaries is small, and so is the percentage in the professions. There are only about half as many lawyers as in the average city. The average house rent is a little lower and the average value of the owned home higher, than in the average city, and the percentage of those owning homes is low. There are fewer old people, more young people, and the number of children is large. The average annual earnings in manufacturing--$1,260--are lower than in the average city.

Transportation centers show social characteristics much like those of the manufacturing cities, though they are less extreme in differing from the average city.

Mining towns have large numbers of children and young people. The rent of houses is low, as is also the average value of the owned homes. The number of owned homes is, however, near the average for the nation. The percentage of foreign-born, 14, is above the average, but not quite so high as in the factory towns.

Characteristics of pleasure resort towns are quite different from the others. The average rent paid, $31, is higher than for the average city, as is the average value of homes, $6,200, although the manufacturing wage is only $1,230. There is an excess of women, of widowed persons and of older persons. In the big pleasure resort cities a very large proportion of the people is engaged in domestic and personal service, and a low per cent in manufacturing. Physicians, lawyers, musicians, authors, electricians and hairdressers are above average in number. The clergy are slightly under-represented. Study of health resorts showed that they resemble the average city in social characteristics.

Twenty-five college towns studied showed that seven out of ten children 16 and 17 years of age are in school. The rent, about $28, is about average, and the average value of the owned home, $5,200, only a little above that for the average city, as is the proportion of homes owned. The percentage of the population that is native born is 70, the highest of any type of city studied. The sex ratio of the single is the lowest for any of the cities studied. There are only 93 single males to 100 single females, in contrast to the 113 in the average city and 123 in the factory towns. There is more than the average supply of widows, owing, Professor Ogburn suggests, to the number of working mothers who take up residence in college towns while their sons and daughters are in schools.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, September 19

Public Works Engineers to Meet

Three hundred and fifty municipal engineers and public works officials from the United States and Canada are expected to attend the 1936 Public Works Congress to be held at Toronto, Canada, Sept. 28-Oct. 1. This will be the second joint convention of the American Society of Municipal Engineers, founded in 1894,and the International Association of Public Works Officials, founded in 1919.

The public works engineers, who according to a recent analysis, hold positions that may consist of the single duty of directing a department of public works or may involve the multiple duties of street builder, sewerage engineer and water department administrator, will not devote their entire conference to technical problems. Garbage grinding, refuse incineration, road surfacing, and other technical matters are on the program, but also included are talks on housing in relation to public works, and reports on city and regional plan surveys and on engineers' interest in traffic control. Training of the engineer for the public service is another of the broader problems to be discussed.

George B. Gascoigne, Cleveland, O., president of the American Society of Municipal Engineers, Mark B. Owen, Dearborn, Mich., president of the International Association of Public Works Officials, and William J. Galligan, Chicago, chairman of the Joint Administrative Board of the organizations, will participate in the formal opening of the Congress. His Worship Mayor Samuel McBride of Toronto will make the welcoming address.

While in Toronto the engineers will make a tour of the city's public works.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Monday, September 21

SEP 18 1936

Precaution at the Polls

On Tuesday, November 3, more than forty million Americans will go to more than 20,000 polling places to decide what families shall live in the White House and in various gubernatorial mansions, who shall occupy various state offices, and what changes shall be made in constitutions and laws. Secretaries of state play an important part in arranging these elections, according to a survey which has just been completed by the Council of State Governments on behalf of the National Association of Secretaries of State.

The survey, according to Henry W. Toll, executive director of the Council, shows that in 44 states the secretary of state is the responsible state election officer, although in only one state--Ohio--has he the power of appointing and removing local election boards. Other facts developed are that:

Only two states, South Carolina and Oklahoma, help to bear the local costs of elections, although 18 other states contribute indirectly by furnishing the supplies to local election officials.

The secretary of state furnishes the ballots used in all state and federal elections in 8 states. In four states, where the ballots are not furnished, forms for the ballots or directions on how to prepare them insure a degree of uniformity. In seven others the secretary of state sends sample ballots to the local boards.

Compilations of all state election laws, ranging from leaflets to bulky volumes, are issued in 32 states. Manuals of instruction to local election officials and voters are published in 24 states, while 6 have felt that the demand for publication of an election calendar for the use of local election officials was sufficient to warrant a separate publication.

To let voters know what changes in the constitution are proposed, 13 states use newspapers, while 21 publish special pamphlets. In the case of the use of the initiative and referendum, 4 states employ newspaper publicity, while 14 use pamphlets. In 13 states an explanation of the changes in the law is given in ordinary language along with the constitutional amendment or statute. In 9 states argumentative material concerning the merit of any proposed change is officially printed.

The authorship of argumentative as well as purely explanatory material varies from state to state. In Illinois it is written by a committee of the General Assembly; in Michigan and New York, by the secretary of state; in Minnesota, Mississippi and South Dakota, by the attorney general. Proponents and opponents do the writing of arguments in Idaho, California, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah and Washington. In most states argumentative material is paid for as advertising in state publications. The price of arguments in Oregon, for example, is $100 per page. In North Dakota arguments are included in a state pamphlet in which personal political advertising is also inserted and paid for on behalf of candidates.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Tuesday, September 22

State Administration of Social Security Laws

Problems connected with the administration of social security legislation are being examined on a nation-wide scale by the Public Administration Committee of the Social Science Research Council. The studies are designed to make available the experiences of states in administering old age-assiatance, unemployment compensation and other provisions for social security in their various stages of development.

As announced in the September issue of Public Welfare News, bulletin of the American Public Welfare Association, the studies will include five divisions: the administration of old-age-assistance, public employment offices, unemployment compensation, federal grants-in-aid, and a general examination of administrative experience under federal and state social security legislation. It is expected that several of these will be completed by the summer of 1937.

Study of old-age assistance administration has already been completed in the states of New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts, and a report will soon be released. During the next six months approximately one-half the remaining states in the country will be covered by the special committee in charge of this study. The study of unemployment insurance at present is confined to Wisconsin, New Hampshire and New York, the states which have made the most progress in setting up unemployment insurance plans. These two studies are being issued through Public Administration Service, Chicago.

Field studies of public employment offices have already been made in a dozen states. From the experience abroad it is anticipated that the public employment offices will play a prominent role in the administration of the various aspects of social security, particularly unemployment compensation.

The study of the administration of federal grants-in-aid is concerned with the experience under the several types of grants-in-aid made by the federal government, with particular emphasis upon the requirements of standards of administration and other supervision and assistance made by the federal agency in charge. The Social Security Act utilizes throughout the principle of grants-in-aid by the federal government and greatly increases the total amount provided in federal grants to the states and local governments.

All the studies are under the direction of Dr. Joseph P. Harris, director of research of the Committee on Public Administration, with headquarters office in Washington, D. C.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, September 23

Six States Have Now Adopted Merit Systems for Public Welfare Services

Three more states--Florida, Oklahoma and Texas--have been added to the roster of those adopting the merit system for public welfare services without passing formal civil service laws, according to the Civil Service Assembly News Letter. Action in each case was taken within the past month, bringing the total to six. The three pioneering states were Michigan, Indiana and New Hampshire.

The Florida State Board of Social Welfare has announced that in the future employees are to be selected on a merit basis. Eligibility of applicants for positions will be determined through a combination of written tests, evaluations of experience and oral interviews.

In Texas, a merit system was adopted for employees of the Old Age Assistance Commission. Because there will be a reduction in the amount of work performed by the commission there is little likelihood that outside individuals will be able to obtain jobs in the commission, however, it is reported. Registers are being compiled by examination of persons now employed, and it is expected that once they are established they will supply all employees needed for several years. Newspapers in the state have expressed the hope that this small beginning will lead to the adoption of a state civil service law.

When the director of public welfare was appointed last month in Oklahoma, he announced that he would use the merit system in selecting employees. The members of the State Welfare Commission had already gone on record in favor of the complete elimination of patronage appointments in the department, and the governor had previously recommended a civil service law for the entire state service.

"These attempts to raise personnel standards for special branches of the public service represent a definite but limited gain for the merit system," says the News Letter. "It would be unfortunate if the absence of legislative foundations should prevent these improved administrative practices from becoming permanent. Civic and professional groups in these states are supporting a movement to have these merit principles officially enacted in the form of appropriate laws and extended to include employees in other departments."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Thursday, September 24

To Catch Auto Thieves

Police-Communication-Radio

Automobile thefts cost the American public more real money than any other form of crime, and cooperation of the public as well as of police and prosecutor is necessary to stamp them out of existence, a committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police reported at the forty-third convention in Kansas City yesterday.

The committee strongly recommended that every city join the nation-wide network of intercity radio-telegraph service provided for by the Federal Communications Commission. By this means, it pointed out, not only messages but also fingerprint classifications, checks on license numbers,motor numbers and other information necessary in the apprehension of automobile thieves can be relayed with rapidity.

Three types of car thieves were classified by the committee, which suggested tactics for their apprehension. In the first classification are the joy-riding kind --most often young boys. Concerning these, the committee says, "the car owner must be made to realize that he plays a very prominent part in aiding the joy-rider to become a real criminal through his failure to protect his property properly by leaving his car unlocked, leaving the keys in the car or not properly garaging it." The committee found that in some sections of the country the police, by tagging automobiles found unlocked, had done much to educate car owners to their duty.

Car thieves who steal automobiles to sell them or their parts constitute the second class. Young boys often are employed by gangs to do the actual stealing because the law deals with them leniently if they are caught. Clever "changers" or "strippers" in the gang obliterate identification marks on the cars. To detect such crimes and apprehend criminals, police departments need specially trained men on automobile theft detail, the committee advised.

Kidnappers, killers, and other criminals who steal cars in order to make quick getaways constitute the third class. An additional class of thefts concerns fraudulent claims upon insurance companies. Such thefts, it was pointed out, could be minimized by careful examination of all insurance claims.

The uniform anti-theft law, with its certificate of title feature, and the licensing of used car dealers under strict police supervision have aided in decreasing auto losses by thievery in some states, the Committee indicated, advising that they might be adopted to advantage in all states.

Though legislation and enforcement may be made stricter, said the committee, the public "must be further educated to recognize the menace of this class of criminals," whose operations "cost the citizens a greater monetary loss than any other form of crime."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Friday, September 25

Assessment methods

The Value of City Planning to Assessment Administration

Dilemmas faced by assessors under the present general system of poorly planned use of property make it impossible for them to do an accurate job of evaluation, Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials, told the National Association of Assessing Officers in convention today at Detroit.

The assessor meets debatable assessments in practically every direction, according to Mr. Blucher. In land overzoned for commercial purposes, land in blighted areas held for speculation, and in undeveloped real estate subdivisions lie contributing causes for his troubles.

As an example of overzoning he cited the city of Warren, O., which in 1920 had a population of 27,000 and in 1930, a population of 41,000. Although this represented an increase of over 65 per cent, the rate could scarcely justify the amount of commercial frontage the city has zoned, which would accommodate a population of 537,960. "How," asks Mr. Blucher, "can the assessor determine the value of the properties which have been zoned for commercial purposes but not yet used? Shall he say that since they are zoned for commercial purposes they should be assessed on that basis, or is he to use his intelligence and say that it is obvious the property will never be used for commercial purposes and therefore should be assessed on some other basis?"

Within blighted areas of a city, the problem is even worse, he says. Property is zoned for commercial or industrial purposes or the owner considers that its potential use if for industrial purposes. When the Federal government or any other agency wants to purchase the land for low-cost housing or slum clearance, the owners will not accept reasonable offers. "If we had acknowledged the fact that the property can never be used for anything but low-cost housing," says Mr. Blucher, "it would have been zoned and assessed as such."

In the case of real estate subdivisions, the assessor must decide whether land bought as farm property for a few hundred dollars an acre, then made into lots with a 20-foot frontage, to be sold for $75 a foot, should be evaluated for taxation as "raw land" or as business and residential property, the classification under which it is sold. If homes and business buildings are actually erected on these sites, the problem is not so great, comments Mr. Blucher, but if the land remained undeveloped because there is an oversupply of small lots (which is usually the case) and if it has been given a high evaluation, there will probably be tax delinquency.

These problems and many others which the assessor faces can be solved only by a carefully planned use of the land within a community, says Mr. Blucher. The purpose of planning, he points out, is to get a reasonable, rational and effective use of the land. This may mean that the planners of the future will not only have to provide better zoning than has existed in the past, but will also have to designate those areas in which low-cost housing,medium-cost housing and high-cost housing are to be constructed. When all the land in the community has been designated for its best and highest uses the assessor will have little difficulty in determining the proper value for a parcel of property.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, September 26

Transportation for Traveling Municipal Employees

How much should a city employee be paid when he uses his own automobile on city business? Public Management, journal of the International City Managers' Association, reports that there is no standard, the reimbursement depending on numerous factors.

Flat rate allowances are most popular, according to the magazine. The allowance ranges from $10 to $100 and over a month, but the average is probably between $20 and $40. This plan assumes that all allowances cover only the cost of gas and oil. It is easy to administer, but in practice, says the magazine, gross inequalities frequently are found. High ranking officials often are given generous allowances in spite of the fact that they may use a car for only a few hours during the day, while lesser officials and employees who use their cars almost continually receive the same or even lower allowances.

A number of cities use a mileage fee plan, the payment ranging from five to ten cents a mile. In some cases the employee alone reports the mileage. If the employee does not pad, the city can be assured that it pays only for reasonable transportation service. To be effective, however, the report says, this basis of compensation should depend upon daily speedometer or hubometer readings as a basis for compiling cost records for various types of automobile.

Still other cities make various allowances for gas, oil, and sometimes repairs. Under such a system, it is commented, employees are bound to use some city gasoline while traveling on private time, and it is not an unknown practice for unscrupulous employees to resell supplies, and to their profit.

The whole system of allowances for private cars is open to a number of criticisms, Public Management says. It may save the city capital outlay for automobiles and for garage facilities, it may simplify record-keeping, and it may result in more careful driving of the cars because they belong to the employees themselves, but it seldom is based on scientific cost analysis. As a result, most cities using this plan pay a good deal more than is justifiable.for the transportation they receive. It must be remembered also, the magazine points out, that whenever an employee who rents his car to the city leaves the service, another man with a car must be hired. This tends to establish ownership of an automobile as a qualification for holding certain city jobs.

An alternative to both private cars and public cars has been tried in Pittsburgh, Penna., which hires privately owned taxicabs at predetermined rates. A similar system is the use of "Driveurself" cars on a rental basis. Under this plan, as in the Pittsburgh plan, it is necessary for the employee to secure a special voucher or coupon with provision for checking on the length of and justification for the trip. In most cases, however, Public Management says, especially in larger cities, the greatest economy and best service are probably to be obtained by the installation of some central transportation bureau with a dispatching system which will permit the assignment of cars on the basis of need.

"No categorical recommendation can be made for all cities," Public Management concludes, "but the choice of the system should be based upon a thorough study of transportation needs and costs. A study of the number of car-miles being paid for by the city at present, unit costs per type of car, and similar factors will provide the only reliable information upon which this decision can be made."

News Bulletin of SEP 28 1936
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, September 28

C. H.
IBRARY

Personnel, Public - Examin...

Odd Jobs in the Civil Service

Clerks and typists and stenographers are not the only people who take civil service examinations for government jobs. Civil service commissions actually give examinations in nearly every trade and calling. When the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada recently made a list of some of the odd jobs in government that are open only to persons who can make high marks on civil service examinations, these facts came to light:

Milwaukee County, Wis., gives a civil service test for the position of calf herdsman. Candidates are expected to understand the proper feeding and care of pure-bred calves.

The Civil Service of Canada lists the position of Assistant Carilloneur. The individual who holds this job is qualified to assist the Carilloneur in playing the huge bells of the Parliament Building only after he has passed the civil service examination.

The Maryland Department of State Employment and Registration gives examinations for the position of mail censor.

Los Angeles' kennelmen at the dog pound are under civil service. So are California state tree trimmers.

Among Cincinnati's civil service jobs are those of horse shoer, bath attendant, bed maker, dishwasher, bus boy, and baseball umpire. Chicago at one time announced an examination for a piano teacher.

New Jersey has employed through civil service a jiu jitsu instructor, a historian, and a mechanical dentist; New York State, an embalmer and an undertaker; Portland, Ore., a nuisance inspector, a caddy master for the municipal golf course, and a curator of rose gardens; St. Louis, a leak inspector; and St. Paul, a soda man for a soda fountain.

"It is startling to realize the wide variety of positions filled by civil service examination," says G. Lyle Belsley, executive director of the Civil Service Assembly. "Some of them would be excellent subjectsfor a Believe-it-or-not column; however, the experience of cities which place all municipal employees under civil service procedure clearly demonstrates that adequate standards can be set for unusual positions as well as for the usual. Civil service commissions have long insured federal, county and city governments against the evil results of haphazard choice of public employees."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, September 29

(Street lighting)

Street and Highway Lighting Important to Safety

Thousands of people are losing their lives each year in the United States because of insufficient street and highway lighting. Were obsolete street lighting units in cities brought up to required standards "it is reasonable to expect that about 3,500 lives annually would be saved." More than 7,000 lives a year would be preserved through adequate illumination of major traffic arteries between cities.

This was the gist of the report that the street lighting committee of the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials made yesterday at the Public Works Congress being held at Toronto, Canada, by the two organizations.

"So serious has the night accident situation become," said Paul H. Goodell, chairman of the committee, "that in many localities statistics reveal that two-thirds of all fatal and serious accidents are resulting from the small fraction of one-fifth of the total traffic which is making use of our public thoroughfares during the hours of dusk and darkness."

Though many cities are replacing inadequate lighting units, Mr. Goodell reported, there is still a serious lack of public demand for improved lighting throughout the country. "This may to some extent have developed from past impressions that street lighting was intended only to serve an ornamental purpose," he said."Such impressions will be rapidly erased, however, when the public begins to appreciate the value of adequate illumination in reducing accidents and crimes."

Mr. Goodell pointed out that although one New York county alone this month dedicated 22 miles of new highway lighting, and although a dozen or more states are installing experimental highway lighting systems "there is still a majority of the states in which expenditures for highway lighting cannot legally be made."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, September 30

Interstate Cooperation on River Affairs

Four eastern states whose "Ol' Man River" is the Delaware, with its attendant problems of water pollution, flood control, navigation and conservation, will send representatives to a regional conference at Shawnee-on-the Delaware, Pennsylvania, Oct.2-3 to discuss practical solution of these problems through cooperation. The Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, of which Thomas A. Logue, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Internal Affairs, is chairman, is calling the conference. Governmental, educational and civic representatives from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware have been invited to attend.

Waste disposal, municipal water supply, navigation and flood control are not new problems for states of the Delaware River Basin, Chairman Logue points out in announcing the conference. They have been studied for at least fifty years by the states, but have not gone any farther toward solution than engineers' recommendations printed in official and unofficial documents. The Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin was organized as an official agency six months ago to tackle the common problems of the four-state drainage area. It does not contemplate putting in more time on research, but will make its job one of correlation and coordination of effort on a program of action.

Membership of the Commission is composed of three representatives each from the New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania Commissions on Interstate Cooperation, and a fourth representative from the respective state planning boards. Delaware's representatives on the Commission are appointed by the governor. The Council of State Governments maintains a secretariat for the Commission in Philadelphia, and the federal government, through the National Resources Committee, has supplied a technical water consultant to work on the pollution problem.

A major purpose of the Shawnee-on-the-Delaware conference is to show representatives of federal, state, county, and municipal governments, educational institutions, and civil, civic, and business bodies of the four states a clear picture of the problems of water supply and related subjects in the Delaware River Basin as a whole; and to define and crystallize opinion as to the interests and responsibilities of the four states concerned, of the federal government, and of the local units of government. Suggestions will be considered for moulding a practical program that can go into effect immediately, through properly coordinated machinery. It is expected that action will be taken on the legislative recommendations of the Commission, which will be submitted to the January, 1937, sessions of the four state legislatures.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, October 1

Personnel Public - Ohio

Welfare Administration on a Merit Basis in Hamilton County, O.

Municipalities contemplating the adoption of merit system principles for their public welfare agencies can take a leaf from the experience of Hamilton County, O., which is mainly Cincinnati. A report issued today by the American Public Welfare Association relates how this county during the economic emergency utilized for public welfare administration a civil service system already available for other county offices.

When relief loads began to swell to staggering size along about 1933, many municipalities hired as case workers almost anyone obtainable who had a warm heart, good intentions and need of a job. Not so Hamilton County. In 1932 the Ohio Civil Service Commission had established a district office in Hamilton County for the administration of civil service in county offices. Use of this agency was decided upon to solve the problem of getting competent personnel to administer relief.

First of all, a survey was made of the entire relief organization and sound qualifications were set up for the various positions after their precise duties had been ascertained. The job classifications included: County Director of Welfare; Assistant Director; District Supervisor; Assistant Supervisor; Senior and Junior Case Worker; and Visitor, Grade 1, and Visitor, Grade 2. Cooperation of representatives from all groups of the community interested in social work, both public and private, was solicited. Upon their common advice, high standards of education and experience were set up for each position, and a corresponding salary scale arranged.

The type of examination given the candidates was necessarily experimental the first year. Correlation shown later between examination results and in-service records of workers who took tests were sufficiently high to prove that the pre-employment tests were good gauges of ability.

The system may be said to have "worked" in Hamilton County, since the opinion is widely held in official circles that the county produces a superior brand of welfare service. It would not have been so likely to succeed, however, according to the report, if the community had not cooperated. "Without the aid of those in the field of social work and others vitally interested in community progress," the report says, "not only would the actual Civil Service process have failed of full success, but its complete acceptance and its influence on public opinion would largely have failed of effect."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Friday, October 2

Training - Police

Universal Police Training Now Possible

Effective training programs for all police officers in every state in the Union can now be developed through the recent inclusion of public service employees in the federal government's vocational education program, according to the report of the committee on training of the International Association of Chiefs of Police made at the annual convention of the Association last week at Kansas City. The sum of $12,000,000, or four times the amount first appropriated for vocational education by the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917, is to be provided annually under the extended vocational education program.

Far more important than the increased revenue, say police chiefs, is the fact that for the first time instruction in public service occupations is specifically identified as trade and industrial education, which qualifies such instruction for federal grants-in-aid. Police training, being a public service occupation, comes well within the scope of the training program, and "for the first time the opportunity is at hand to establish permanent and adequate training facilities in the several states."

Federal funds have been used for several years to aid in financing statewide police training programs, the California program being a notable example. Now, however, appropriations are increased to a point where adequate training programs are possible for all states. It will be necessary, however, for states to match federal funds with state or local funds, or both. Matching is on the basis of 50 per cent of federal appropriations until 1942, the states' shares being increased by 10 per cent increments until 1946, when they are to match federal appropriations 100 per cent. Combined funds must be spent in accordance with programs which each year are developed by state directors of trade and industrial education and approved by the United States Office of Education.

All chiefs of police who wish to take advantage of this new legislation to establish or to improve programs of police training must first apply to their respective state directors of trade and industrial education to include police training in their 1937-1938 training plans.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Saturday, October 3

/Public administration International...

Managing the Public's Business in Every Language

Over two hundred international organizations whose activities concern management of the public's business of government are listed and described in "A Directory of International Organisations in the Field of Public Administration" which has just been issued by the Joint Committee on Planning and Cooperation with headquarters at Brussels, Belgium.

An American, Prof. Rowland Egger, of the University of Virginia, who is the secretary of the Committee, edited the Directory, which is the first of its kind. The Joint Committee itself is composed of representatives of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences and the International Union of Local Authorities, two organizations of long standing that include in their memberships officials and authorities from practically all countries in Europe and America, and a few from other parts of the world. The Committee was established as the result of a round-table conference called in Paris in July, 1934, by Public Administration Clearing House, of America, whose director, Louis Brownlow, is the Committee's president.

The object of the Joint Committee is to help bring about coordinated effort in providing up-to-date international information on developments in administrative affairs and to clear internationally knowledge of tried and new ways of conducting the business of government, at the local as well as the national level.

Fifty-seven of the 205 international organizations listed in the Directory have their secretariats in Paris; 30 are in London; 29 in Brussels; 25 in Geneva; 12 at Berne, Switzerland; and 52 are in other cities of the world.

Publication of the Directory is only one of the activities of the Joint Committee of international administrators. To make it easier for public officials of one country to communicate with those of another, congresses are arranged every year or so. At two such meetings held in Berlin and Warsaw the past summer representatives of over fifty countries, including thirty Americans, exchanged ideas on the care of the unemployed, the cultural functions of local governments, apprenticeship training of public employees and other current problems of scientific administration. Provision was made at the time for a common secretariat, to continue research on problems of public administration and publish results, plan future conferences and facilitate personal relations. This office will be in Brussels, Belgium.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Monday, October 5

A. C. H.
LIBRARY
OCT 5 1936

Training for Fire Executives

The city with the most fire stations and shiny red engines doesn't always have the best fire protection. That might have been the old-fashioned fire chief's idea, but it won't do for those who take the course in fire administration announced by the Institute for Training in Municipal Administration.

For several years thousands of firemen in the country have been taught the latest tricks in fire-fighting at short-term schools conducted once a year by state leagues of municipalities, often in connection with universities. The Institute'e course, which is taught by correspondence and conducted through the International City Managers' Association, is designed primarily for fire executives. Experts in municipal administration grade the lessons, which take up every problem of managing a fire department from the location of fire stations to investigation of incendiarism.

To your up-to-date fire chief, finding out where conflagrations are liable to occur and the best means of preventing them is as important as following the engines when the alarm sounds. He analyzes the city's fire problem in a scientific way, checking types and number of fire alarms over a period of years, mapping out what there is to burn in the way of hazardous buildings, and advising the most efficient means of prevention. Carefully kept records on current conflagrations are important.

"The data included in fire department reports on fires are perfunctorily and even carelessly assembled in all except a few cities," according to the Institute. "A list of the causes of fires is seldom tabulated more than once a year...."

The average person speaking of fire protection usually visualizes the fire department. But the municipal fire department, as pointed out in the course, is only one of many types of agencies available to carry on the battle against fire. Also involved are the water department; police department; public service corporations, such as gas, electric and steam companies; communication enterprises such as telephone and telegraph; a mutual aid plan whereby one or more neighboring cities may help one another; a disaster plan; private fire brigades, automatic sprinkler and alarm systems, and watchmen. Important on the prevention side are the legal aspects -- prosecution of arson cases, provision of a fool-proof building code and zoning ordinances. It is thus obvious that the fire chief needs a thorough knowledge of the workings of many municipal agencies and he must learn how to coordinate them for his department's benefit.

The course in fire administration is one of four prepared by the Institute for Training in Municipal Administration during the past year and a half. Others are on the organization and functions of municipal government; municipal personnel administration; and municipal public works administration. They are intended mainly for administrative officials who want to broaden their training on the job.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936

Release: Tuesday, October 6

Accident

Texas Campaigns for State-wide Traffic Safety

Texas believes that promotion of traffic safety in cities and towns as well as on the broad highways is a state-wide affair. A traffic consultant service designed to assist all corporate municipalities in the solution of perplexing traffic problems has been inaugurated by the Department of Public Safety, says Texas Municipalities, magazine of the League of Texas Municipalities.

The service, which is provided through the combined facilities of the Texas Highway Patrol and the State Driver's License Bureau, is closely tied in with the Safety Lane campaign undertaken by the Patrol several months ago. Since April 1, the Safety Lane has tested over 116,000 automobiles, finding 23,000 defectives.

Cities in increasing number are taking advantage of the free service for testing motor vehicles and of the counsel and technical advice given by the Department of Public Safety on such subjects as parking problems, zoning, T-men's organizations (the traffic G-men) and school safety work. The Public Safety Department is serving as a clearing house for the entire state, passing on old and new remedies for traffic troubles and installing traffic regulations for small towns with a limited law enforcement agency.

The traffic installations are made only at the request of proper local authorities, and by action of the city officials. If the service is requested, the Highway Patrol follows the installation of new regulations with a courtesy education program designed to familiarize the citizens with the new rules.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936

Release: Wednesday, October 7

Police Public Relations Squad in Washington, D.C.

A new kind of crime prevention bureau is gaining success in Washington, D.C. Major Ernest W. Brown, of the capital's Metropolitan Police Department described the agency, known as the Public Relations Squad, at the annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police held recently in Kansas City.

The city of Washington began the operation of a Crime Prevention Bureau about four years ago, accordig to Major Brown, for the primary purpose of dealing with juvenile delinquency. Covering gatherings of radicals was another of its duties. The name of the Bureau was later changed to Public Relations Squad, which seemed more nearly descriptive of its purpose. At present the Public Relations Squad functions as a specific unit of the Metropolitan Police Department, under direction of the Detective Bureau. It handles juvenile delinquents, missing persons, and agitators, and locates persons for delivery of messages at the request of out-of-town jurisdictions when exact addresses are unknown.

Major Brown's conception of the proper set-up for a Public Relations Squad, which he recommends as a useful agency for other cities, is that it should consist of selected plainclothesmen, policewomen and a clerical force, working under the direction of one officer responsible to the chief of detectives. He proposes that the work of the squad cover all subjects related to crime prevention and social problems including advisory services in domestic difficulties upon request.

"There is an unlimited field of work for a Public Relations Squad," he says, "in connection with the handling of subjects not actually criminal but which, if not corrected, lead to crimes of a serious nature and loss to society of a valuable citizen."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, October 8

Improved Employment Practice for Municipal Laborers

More stable employment and uniform conditions of work for city laborers are made possible by ordinances passed in two cities recently. This action toward improved employment practice has been taken by Trenton, N.J., and Toledo, O., according to the Civil Service Assembly News Letter, issued by the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada.

Trenton's new municipal ordinance provides for shorter hours and for uniform rates of pay for laborers. The city manager of the New Jersey municipality had previously found that there were wide variations in the hours of work required of these employees, and that wages often differed for two men doing similar work. Forty-three truck drivers, for instance, were being compensated by seven different rates of pay, while their working day varied from eight to twelve hours. Unusual provisions of the Trenton ordinance include a dismissal bonus for the worker if he is laid off through no fault of his own; one week's vacation with pay for every employee who works 2,000 or more hours per year; a standard promotion plan; and fifteen days' sick leave with pay in each year. Approximately 400 workers are affected.

In Toledo the classified civil service has been extended by ordinance to include all laborers. In the future, the civil service commission of that city will prepare eligibility lists from which all municipal laborers must be selected. No written tests will be given, but all applicants must demonstrate that they are physically fit and adapted to the work to be performed.

The Toledo Commission of Publicity and Efficiency has pointed out two advantages to the city that should result from the new ordinance. Adoption of the policy of giving physical examinations should save municipal money by eliminating candidates who are unable to do a full day's work efficiently. And the stabilized compensation system will eventually make it possible for department heads to make more accurate budget estimates by using unit costs per man-day or man-hour.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Friday, October 9

Annual Municipal Reports -- 1936 Models

City officials are beginning to realize that public reporting must be designed to appeal to the public and not to the keeper of the musty archives. The days of dry-as-dust municipal reports overburdened with head-befuddling figures are numbered. In their place appears a new type of report, attractively bound and printed, written in snappy, readable language, and made lively by pictures and graphic statistics.

This is the conclusion of Elton D.Woolpert, International City Managers' Association staff, after a review of reports issued by American cities during 1936.

Writing in the October issue of Public Management, official magazine of the Association, Mr. Woolpert points out that for many of the 68 cities which issued reports during 1936, annual reporting of this sort is a well-established activity. Reading, Mass., issued its 291st, and Stoughton, Mass., its 209th. On the other hand, 26 cities made their first venture into annual reporting in 1936.

The reports are usually in pamphlet form, about six by nine inches in size, and from 40 to 70 pages in length. Inside, most of the better reports have a frontispiece, a table of contents, organization chart, an official directory, a letter of transmittal from the mayor or city manager, and a condensed outline of the highlights of the year. Sometimes recommendations for the following year's program are included, as well as concise accounts of the activities of the various departments, the auditor's report, and a brief list of descriptive facts about the city, such as population, area, assessed valuation, etc. "Heavy" statistics, if there are any, go in the back of the book, for readers especially interested in details. The style of writing in many of the reports needs brushing up, according to Mr. Woolpert, who comments, however, that a number of the reports have especially interesting features.

The annual report of West Bend, Wis., for example, has a feature known as "The Citizens' Ten Commandments," which include admonitions to be prompt in the payment of tax and water bills, to refrain from parking cars in the streets overnight, and to vote on election day. In the annual report of Topeka, Kans. there are six pages of "Information for Investors," including population figures, assessed valuation, tax limitations and levies, bonded debt. The report of Larchmont, N.Y. has a page entitled "Dates on the Village Calendar," which mark the beginning of the fiscal year and the date for the sale of tax liens among other important days.

Some cities supplement their annual reporting to the public. Shorewood, Wis. issues bi-monthly bulletins which deal with such topics as "The G-Men of Science," describing health research in the town's clinics. Columbus, Ga., mimeographed a pamphlet of five pages this year entitled "City Taxes, Cigarettes, and Chewing Gum," which breaks down the tax bill in terms of everyday expenditures for commonplace articles. Milwaukee drew a map of the city, locating all the properties in the "civic plant" and showing the assets of the taxpayers after their bonded debt has been subtracted.

The idea behind the improvement of municipal reports is to put city statistics the taxpayer should know about in such form that he will be interested in reading and studying them. By no means have all of the 1936 reports been developed to the interest-provoking stage of the best of them, says Mr. Woolpert, "but the improvements made by some cities a year ago have been copied by others, and this year's leaders have produced other innovations, so the trend is definitely encouraging."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, October 10

Five Years of Municipal History

The facts of municipal life as learned by American cities during the depression are spotlighted in an eight-hundred page book, Proceedings of the American Municipal Association, 1931-1935, issued today through Public Administration Service, Chicago. The book is a heart-to-heart discussion of the problems that concerned several thousand cities of the country during the past five years and made them conscious of taking a new role in the policical scene.

The American Municipal Association, which is the national federation of state leagues of municipalities, was founded in 1924, although the league movement dates back to the '90's. Not until 1930, however, did the Association set up a permanently staffed national headquarters. At present over 6,000 cities are represented in the membership of the state leagues, which exist in thirty states.

In the pages of the "Proceedings" can be traced the trend toward joint study and cooperative effort among American municipal governments of today, and the growing conviction that many of their problems can be solved through cooperation in state leagues of cities, which are powerful enough to gain a national hearing.

Organizational problems and technical matters dominated the annual meeting of the American Municipal Association in 1931, according to the "Proceedings." The discussions merely touched upon intergovernmental relationships, including the possibilities of cooperation with other governmental agencies, and the necessity for autonomy of local government with respect to the state was stressed. By 1932 the scene had changed. Attacks on municipal government that were to grow more and more fashionable with the progress of the depression had turned the cities' attention to securing an equitable and adequate revenue system, and to the dangers of too much state control of municipal affairs. Cities were trying to care for their unemployed, and federal legislation like the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act, which gave

(MORE)

them more direct connection and concern with the federal government, occupied their attention.

During the next two years the horizon of the cities widened still more. The year 1933, which brought before the conference the liquor regulation and liquor tax problem led the American Municipal Association to urge for cities a share of federal- amd state-levied taxes. At the same time, the cities were advised to keep a close checkrein on their bonded indebtedness. The Association endorsed the Sumners-Wilcox Bill or Municipal Bankruptcy Act, which was passed the next year, permitting cities to readjust their debts through the federal courts on the basis of ability to pay. In 1934 the cities' thoughts were dominated by the financial problems brought on through emergency public works programs, by contemplation of municipal low-cost housing programs, and by other new municipal services, including even the possibility of municipally owned mile pasteurization plants. Cooperative purchasing of municipal supplies and the need for properly training public administrators also came into the picture.

Keynote of the 1935 conference of the cities was the necessity of recognizing the interdependence of governmental units--local, state and federal--and upon the importance of all levels of government planning together for the future.

"What the next five-year period will bring forth for cities it is difficult to conjecture," comments Clifford W. Ham, executive director of the American Municipal Association. "It is not hard to see, however, that there must be a still greater degree of intergovernmental cooperation and coordination of the public services. The continued development of the municipal leagues in the various states; the development of adequate training programs for municipal employees faced with the growing complexity of administration; the need for a proper approach to the problem of conflicting taxation, are all matters that will receive increasing attention of city administrators."

(END)

OCT 17 1936

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Monday, October 12

IBRARY

Guide on Old-Age Assistance Administration

Thirty-nine states are now eligible to receive federal grants-in-aid toward their their old-age assistance programs. Many of them are revising or extending their systems of administration, or must soon do so, to meet a heavier load. As a guide to officials in these and other states, Public Administration Service, Chicago, has today published an account of the administration of old-age assistance in three of the states which have had the largest experience with this form of public aid, New York, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. The study, made by the Committee on Public Administration of the Social Science Research Council, describes the organization in in these three states prior to the federal government's entry into the picture, to illustrate different administrative approaches.

In all three states, old-age assistance is administered locally; the established state welfare agency exercises supervision only as a basis for reimbursement by the state to the local governments of part of the cost. Under the New Jersey law, help for the aged is administered by county boards. In New York and Massachusetts, the aged are cared for variously through county, city, and town agencies.

Local public welfare administration, including the old-age assistance programs, the report states, has "suffered from its own provincialism," and the biggest contribution which a state welfare agency could make to the care of the aged and other dependents would be a ten-year program of constructive leadership in local administration. Elements of a state supervisory program suggested in the report are:

1. Systematic distribution of rules and regulations, as the basis for work manuals to aid local workers.

2. Control of the standards of all local personnel, preferably through a state-wide civil service or merit plan. This may best be secured where the state

(MORE)

contributes to the salaries of locally employed workers.

3. Assistance in the organization of local units for old-age assistance.

4. Operation of a field service, to include supervision of workers in small, unsupervised units; technical assistance on budgets and case records; specialized advice on property matters, health care, nutrition, and mental hygiene problems of the aged; training for groups of local workers.

5. Supervision of local fiscal procedures, including advice on methods and systems.

6. State-installed systems of record-keeping and statistics.

7. Provision within the state administration for a formal method of appeal for aggrieved applicants or recipients.

8. Initiation of occasional reviews of the local work (spot audits) particularly in those units where noncompliance with the rules may be suspected.

With reference to the state organizations themselves, the report concludes:

It is quite clear that a stable old-age assistance administration has been quickly established in Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey because the activity was made the responsibility of a going state department which had already established sound administrative procedures.

The old-age assistance program appears to be improved by the degree to which it is integrated with the other services of the state welfare department.

There has been a minimum of lost motion in the three state agencies because the program has been put in the hands of experienced workers.

The experience of these state departments warrants the assumption that under the state civil service systems the staff of the old-age units will be retained and there will be no serious turnovers for political or other reasons.

All three states have made available a reasonable amount of state money for the state's share in the program, and continuation of this support may be expected.

The fact that these states have been experimenting with more constructive methods, and that the laws in all three cases have been revised this year to include wider areas of application of state effort, is ample evidence, says the report, that the states themselves are not satisfied with the methods of supervision used to date.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, October 13

American Municipal Association in Annual Conference

Cities of thirty-five states will send their spokesmen to a four-day meeting in Chicago October 14-17, when the American Municipal Association holds its thirteenth annual conference. Represented will be six thousand-odd cities that are members of the state leagues of municipalities which are federated nationally in the American Municipal Association.

One of the important topics scheduled for discussion is vocational education for workers in the public service. In-service training programs on a large scale are now being undertaken by leagues of municipalities; and state and federal vocational education authorities are showingan increased interest in the training of employees for the public service.

Round-table discussions will be held on civil service, current work of the leagues, and their legislative programs. While they are not pressure groups, the state associations of cities act as interpreters of legislative matters of importance to cities, at the same time representing the municipal viewpoint, particularly in administrative problems.

Delegates to the meeting, who will include many municipal officials as well as the league secretaries, will be made acquainted with English methods of organizing public service officials and employees. L.C.Hill, general secretary of the National Association of Local Government Officers of Great Britain, in this country on an inspection tour of American municipal governments, will address the conference at a luncheon meeting on October 16.

"The present tempo of municipal life makes it necessary for cities to get together as often as possible, to express their views and to exchange information on common problems," says Clifford W. Ham, executive director of the American Municipal Association, in announcing the annual conference. "Their problems with relation to other levels of government have become very much alike, and by such an exchange of experiences they can learn the most effective methods of dealing with these public matters."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Wednesday, October 14

The Need for A Property Tax

A plea that the property tax, in some form, be retained as a source of governmental revenue was made at the recent conference of the National Association of Tax Assessing Officers in Detroit. The Association adopted a resolution urging that "constitutional amendments designed to abolish property tax revenues be rejected by the electorate and that the objective of equalization in tax distribution be sought in more deliberate fashion through the normal channels of the statutory law." Primary reasons given are that the experience of many states has proved constitutional tax limitations to result in an "unformtunate degree of inflexibility", and that complete abolition of the property tax is "not in accord with just principles of taxation."

Five states will vote November 3 on constitutional amendments regarding the property tax. In Oregon, Georgia and Colorado the proposals fix an over-all tax limitation. Washington's citizens will decide whether the existing limitation shall be continued. And Michigan's amendment would abolish completely the property tax.

"Although the property tax may stand in bad repute at present", says Albert W. Noonan, technical director of the National Association of Assessing Officers, "there are some things to remember about it. For a hundred years it was almost the only resource of the states and their local subdivisions, and it still yields more revenue than any other tax--more than half the total tax revenue of all levels of government combined. It was a stand-by during the depression, revenues from it decreasing only about 13 per cent, while the federal income tax revenue dropped nearly 70 per cent."

The property tax, Mr. Noonan points out, is the only important tax that belongs exclusively to the states. The federal government has preempted other fields of taxation or shares jurisdiction with the states. There is danger, he adds, that the states, lulled into a false sense of security by the ease of getting federal help through grants-in-aid or allocation of federally collected taxes, will be tempted to give up the property tax entirely. It they do this, in his opinion, they will also relinquish their financial independence, and will likely degenerate into mere federal departments or districts.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Thursday, October 15

Economics of the Parking Lot

More implications than meet the casual eye lie in that modern phenomenon of cities -- the parking lot, which springs up on downtown business sites following demolition of some outdated, unprofitable building. Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials, regards it as a harbinger of certain aspects of city development and change.

Writing in the current issue of The Planner's Journal, Mr. Blucher analyzes the parking lot situation in the city of Detroit. In 1927 Detroit had 110 privately owned parking lots in its central business district, with a total capacity of 7,720 cars; by 1933 the number of lots had increased to 265, with a total capacity of 17,251 cars; and in 1936, including downtown garages, the car-parking capacity for the section was 31,724.

Aside from the provision of more parking space so that more people can go downtown in their automobiles instead of using other means of mass transportation, Mr. Blucher sees in this growing number of parking lots significant economic and physical effects on the city.

"Much of the land in the downtown sections of our cities is over-valued," he says. "Uses for buildings cannot be found that will justify a capitalization of the anticipated land value. Property owners are content to leave their land vacant, getting some income, if not enough to pay all, then at least part, of the taxes, while they await the day when through some heaven-sent action they can improve their property to the point where it will show a return on the fictitious value."

That day may never come, however, he explains, in view of the present tendencies of city growth. Instead, failure to use the land may result in a fall in property prices in the downtown sections of the cities where they have been highest.

Other cities bear out the findings in Detroit. Milwaukee in 1927 could park 3,080 cars in the open-air lots; by 1935 the capacity had been increased to 9,009. In Chicago parking lots are reported "constantly invading the regions of high land values."

The influence of parking lots reaches out in many directions, Mr. Blucher comments. It affects land values, building, automobile, bus and trolley car transportation. It will influence the location and acquisition of open spaces and will also very profoundly influence the location of residential areas. It is an important problem which affects urban planning and a factor which must in the future be given more consideration than has been given to it in the past."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, October 16

Specialization of the Suburb

"Stone's-Throw-From-The-Station", commuter's community replete with babies and young housewives, and dominated by women, like the ancient matriarchates, is no longer a true description of every American suburb. In fact, the social characteristics of life in the satellite cities show more variety than do those of the individual cities that grew up off by themselves, says Prof. William F. Ogburn, University of Chicago sociologist.

In the current issue of Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association, Prof. Ogburn reveals the results of a comparative study of characteristics of American suburbs of various sizes and of other cities. The findings show that on four-fifths of 91 items the little communities that fringe the metropolitan districts are more highly specialized than their independent sisters.

The general pattern of the family, for example, is not uniform in the various suburbs. There are suburbs with large families and suburbs with small families, whereas the non-suburban city families are more nearly average in size. There is also slightly more variation in the suburbs in the percentage of the population married, which is somewhat contrary to popular opinion, Prof. Ogburn points out.

In occupations the suburbs generally show more differences. Some of them have a very large percentage of teachers, and some a very small percentage, while for comparable cities which are not suburban the percentage of teachers is more nearly constant. The suburbs are also more highly differentiated as to the number of clergymen, police and servants.

Indices having to do with income also show a much wider variation among the cities within the metropolitan areas. This is the case for radios owned, percentage paying income taxes, average rents paid, average value of the home owned, wages in manufacturing, and wages paid in retail stores.

When the characteristics of monthly rents were compared, Prof. Ogburn discovered that there were a good many wealthy suburbs where the average rent was high and a good many workingmen's suburbs where the rent was low. Cities not near big cities, on the other hand, showed average rentals very much alike. A house hunter who wished a wide choice of rents, therefore, and had freedom of choice of a place to live, might more easily succeed in his purpose if he looked over prospects in various suburbs.

There is also more heterogeneity among the suburbs in per capita indebtedness of the government and in the per capita taxes than in the case of the independent cities. of a comparable size. These suburban cities are more unlike, too, in the cost of certain governmental services such as those providing recreation, libraries, health conditions, and courts.

Prof. Ogburn concludes that the specialization process taking place in cities today goes further in the satellite suburbs. "These are generally the newer and more rapidly growing cities", he comments, "and hence have more of an opportunity to specialize. The reason for the specialization is probably the same as that which causes certain blocks within a city to specialize, since the satellite cities seem to be more or less an extension of these specialized city blocks outward beyond the official city limits."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Saturday, October 17

Lessons from a Log-Book on Municipal Debts

Three years ago hundreds of American municipalities, large and small, were in grave financial difficulties caused by an inability to meet current operating expenses, debt charges and the extraordinary demands of relief. Today their worries are letting up. There has been a vast improvement in municipal finance during the past two years, with the upward movement of general business conditions.

This pattern of municipal finance, following closely the upward and downward swings of the business cycle, has been the same for a hundred years, according to Municipal Bonds--A Century of Experience, just published by Prentice-Hall, New York City. The author of this book, A. M. Hillhouse, is director of research for the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of the United States and Canada.

Some striking parallels are drawn in this volume between the glorious 1920's, when subdivision developments flourished in hundreds of municipalities, and the prosperous decades preceding the depressions of 1873 and 1893, when scores of then younger municipalities were experiencing land booms due to the coming of the railroads. Municipal credit was abused in the 1920's to forward real estate promotion just as in earlier periods it had been abused in the aid of railroad building. During the six-year period 1923-1929 nearly 70 per cent of all municipal improvements was financed with borrowed money. By 1934,50 per cent and more of the budgets of at least ten cities was going for the payment of debts accrued, and twenty-five other cities were using between 30 and 50 per cent for this purpose.

The investors' present stake in municipal debts to the tune of $16,000,000,000 is rivaled only by that of the taxpayers, who must pay this debt, Mr. Hillhouse comments. But by a gradual shifting to a pay-as-you-go policy, this debt burden can be lightened, and municipal obligations will cease to take such a heavy toll out of every tax dollar as it now does in many cities.

The book catalogues suggestions for cities on how to prevent the recurrence of overburdening debt, and how to guard against near-insolvency. Among the most important suggestions are: a divorce between municipal credit and real-estate speculations; the maintenance of a proper ratio between fixed debt charges, current operating expenses, and revenues; elimination of short-term borrowing and better control of expenditures through the municipal budget; the adoption of a long-range debt policy which would include use of the "tax-and-borrow" plan, whereby capital outlay for municipal improvements would be paid from borrowed funds only when they were above a predetermined normal level; and the establishment of a state-local "receivership" board to rehabilitate the finances of defaulting units.

Local revenue systems, he adds, should be more diversified,so as to minimize the effects of periodic breakdowns in the general property tax. Furthermore, tax collection procedures and laws should be so standardized that they will not readily be open to legislative "tinkering" during depression periods.

The "highway of municipal borrowing is not in itself dangerous", Mr. Hillhouse concludes. "Defaults have been numerous, but negligible when compared with the total number of municipalities that have traveled this road. But there is need in the future for more conservative debt policies."

OCT 16 1936

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Monday, October 19

REFERENCE
BRARY

City Manager System 28 Years Old

City managers of America, convening in the historic Virginia House of Burgesses at Williamsburg, Va., to-morrow, will commemorate the 28th anniversary of the inauguration of the manager plan of government, adopted by Staunton, Va., in 1908. The meeting at Williamsburg is a part of the 23d annual conference of the International City Managers' Association which opens in Richmond today and continues through Wednesday.

Virginia has the distinction of containing both the first city and the first county which adopted the council-manager system that in three decades has grown to include 445 municipalities in the United States and 19 in other parts of the world, including Ireland and Porto Rico. Arlington County, Virginia, put a manager in charge of its affairs in 1930, the first of six counties in the country to be governed by the system. Henrico County, of which Richmond is the seat, is also a "manager county."

Over 130 city managers from all parts of the United States will attend the annual conference, which has as its theme the improvement of local government administration. Sessions are scheduled on municipal finance, personnel administration, relief and public works, and other difficult administrative problems. On the last topic 32 city managers have been invited to give three-minute experience talks. Leading municipal authorities will be in charge of a series of informal meetings bringing the managers together according to the population group of their cities. In these meetings will be discussed the selection and training of fire and police employees, retirement plans for municipal employees, the use and sale of tax delinquent property, use of citizen advisory committees, parking meters, new sources of revenue, and the means which may be adopted by the cities to improve the efficiency of WPA projects.

The International City Managers' Association is the professional organization of city managers. Its main purpose is to aid in the improvement of local government administration. The Association encourages managers to administer the affairs of their cities in accordance with the best methods developed through research, practical application, and actual experience.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Tuesday, October 20

Civil Service Assembly in Annual Conference

Representatives of civic, professional and employee groups, as well as civil service commissioners and public personnel administrators, will participate in the 28th annual meeting of the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada which opens in Cincinnati today (October 20).

Customarily emphasizing the technical ways and means of testing the quality of government personnel, the Civil Service Assembly this year will devote a part of its four-day conference to an appraisal of civil service legislation pending in many states and cities. The National League of Women Voters and the Junior Chamber of Commerce are among lay organizations that will be represented at the meeting. Other groups sending spokesmen are the American Association of Social Workers and American Parole Association, the American Nurses' Association, the National Association of Civil Service Employee Organizations, and the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials.

Another important session of the conference will be given over to discussion of the federal and the state employment service programs now operating in 36 states. Recent studies of employment tests and other civil service procedures will be reported at a session on research activities of personnel agencies.

The Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada has a membership composed of civil service commissions and other public personnel agencies and their staff members. Public officials, persons and organizations interested in improved public personnel, and students of government are associate and junior members. The chief purposes of the Assembly are to assist commissions in the administration of civil service laws; to foster and develop interest in the merit system; and to promote the study, development and use of scientific methods of research and administration in the field of public personnel administration.

--T H E R E IS A N O T H E R R E L E A S E ON THE N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Wednesday, October 21

Non-Partisan Housing

Hope that housing may become in this country the non-partisan matter that it has in England, is expressed by Coleman Woodbury, executive director of the National Association of Housing Officials, in a bulletin to members of the association. Encouraging evidence in this direction is found in the United States, he says, in the formal recognitions of housing by the two major political party platforms.

The Democratic Party's national platform includes the following statement:

"We maintain that our people are entitled to decent, adequate housing at a price which they can afford. In the last three years the Federal Government, having saved more than 2,000,000 homes from foreclosure, has taken the first steps in our history to provide decent housing for people of meager incomes.

"We believe every encouragement should be given to the building of new homes by private enterprise, and that the government should steadily extend its housing program toward the goal of adequate housing for those forced through economic necessities to live in unhealthy and slum conditions."

The Republican Party of New York State at its convention recently adopted this housing plank:

"We recognize the need for slum clearance initiated and executed by State and local authorities. Within the limits of a sound State financial policy, we favor public aid to provide homes for families now living in slum areas and unable otherwise to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing."

In England since the World War, Mr. Woodbury points out, important legislation in behalf of low-rent housing has been passed by both the Conservative and the Labour parties and by Coalition governments, one of which was headed by a Liberal and the other by a Conservative prime minister. The British Housing Act of 1935 provided for a Central Housing Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Health to achieve greater continuity in housing policy and administration from one government to another.

"Sharp differences of opinion exist," he says, "as to the most effective and desirable kinds of government participation in housing and to some extent these differences divide along party lines. Furthermore, there can be no doubt that the importance attached to housing, the motives for supporting it, and, particularly among the local authorities, the vigor with which certain policies are pursued, vary greatly from city to city and also with the political party in power.

"The most significant facts, however, are that all responsible political parties in England admit that housing is a factor of importance in the economic and social health of the country and that they all recognize the responsibility of both local and central governments in helping to secure decent, modern living conditions for all classes of the population. In other words, assistance to housing, including the production and operation of housing by governmental agencies for families not adequately served by private or cooperative enterprise, is acknowledged to be a dignified public service, not a partisan football, nor a form of charity."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Thursday, October 22

Providing Inexpensive Hospital Care on a Group Basis

Provision for hospital care to fit the pocketbooks of public employees and other employee groups of small salaries is being made by many cities over the country. The plan, known as group hospitalization, has recently been adopted in Baltimore, according to the Civil Service Assembly News Letter.

Medical and dental societies and several hospitals of the Maryland capital have joined in a non-profit, civic enterprise to furnish hospital service on a subscription basis to public and private employee groups. The employees do not join as individuals but become eligible for membership after a certain percentage of the workers of a group, such as school teachers of a single school, factory workers, in one factory, city hall employees, have indicated their willingness to be enrolled.

The system provides for the payment of equal and regular installments into a common fund that is used for hospital service when required. In all cases there is no interference with the services of the family doctor, since the subscriber is free to choose his own physician or surgeon. Rates range from 40 cents upward to $1.00 a month, the average being about 75 cents.

Group hospitalization was first endorsed by the trustees of the American Hospital Association in 1933. At present there are approximately 450,000 subscribers and several hundred participating hospitals in the sixty communities of the country that have the plan.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Friday, October 23

Checking on the Effectiveness of City Zoning

Zoning a city to limit its business district, to keep gasoline stations from over-running residence sections and to restrict factories to industrial sections, is a twenty-year old story that has been repeated in over twelve hundred municipalities since the practice started. Few cities, however, have attempted to investigate the effectiveness of their zoning ordinance administration, to see whether or not the purpose of the regulatory laws has been accomplished.

Columbus, O. and Boston, Mass. were studied recently to gain a fair picture of the administration of their zoning ordinances, according to the American Society of Planning Officials. In Columbus, where zoning affairs were examined over the year 1923 to 1931 it was found that 59.5 per cent of the 757 appeals for exemption from or modification of the zoning regulations were granted by the Zoning Board. It was considered significant that 721 witnesses appeared favoring modification in the cases where appeals were granted, whereas only 293 witnesses registered favoring modifications in appeals that were denied. Over an eleven-year period, 1924-35, the Boston Board of Zoning Appeals granted 64 per cent of the requests for modification brought before it.

"The studies made in these two cities do not provide sufficient evidence for concluding that zoning regulations have no value," says Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials. "It would seem, however, that zoning boards of appeals are quite lenient in their decisions. This seems particularly true in Massachusetts, where, at the recent annual meeting of the Massachusetts Federation of Planning Boards much criticism was levelled against zoning boards of appeals for letting down the bars. Some zoning boards of appeals have been prone to forget that they are supposed to serve in a semi-judicial capacity, varying the terms of zoning ordinances only where there has been unnecessary hardship and have acted in a legislative manner, usurping the duties of the legislative body.

"The purpose of zoning is to provide an adequate land use program and to protect land against harmful uses and intrusions. Variances or changes made merely to increase the value of a single parcel of property may break down the ordinance so that it has little value."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Saturday, October 24

Obstacles to Municipal Career Service

As many obstacles as a cat is supposed to have lives now stand in the way of local governments' getting the best talent in employees and administrators, according to a report just made by the Committee on Local Government Career Service of the International City Managers' Association. The drawbacks, which are widespread though not universal in city halls, are listed as:

1. Local residence restrictions. When municipal jobs are given to home-town boys only, men with exceptional qualifications who get their start and gain good experience in their own home-towns find it impossible to continue governmental careers in other cities and must look to private employment for further advancement.

2. Restricting what careers there are to single departments and bureaus. Careers even in a single city are rarely treated on a city-wide basis, and career opportunities are most often segregated by departments and bureaus, which makes nearly impossible the development of a qualified group of administrators.

3. Low standards of educational and age qualifications. For fear of keeping out of the public service a genius with great native ability but slight schooling, easy examinations are the rule. When the New York City Civil Service Commission attempted to require a high school education of candidates for the position of market supervisor, pressure from employee and civic groups compelled the commission to abandon the rule. Municipal employment has been open to all ages, thereby giving persons who have failed in private employment, but who have knowledge gained by experience, an undeserved advantage in competition with youngsters of ability but without experience. The result has been to endow private employers with young men of ability and to relieve private employers of their deadwood.

4. The "charity concept" of the public payroll, which in the code of the spoilsman means that local jobs should go to his henchmen; in the philosophy of the non-partisan, that the public payroll should be used to provide work for the local unemployed.

5. Niggardly salary standards for administrative officials, in contrast to salaries offered in private industry. This often requires a brainy man to make too great a monetary sacrifice if he stays in the public service.

6. Lack of organized personnel administration, true of many cities, both large and small. Placing a city under civil service, it should be understood, does not automatically provide intelligent and constructive consideration of the personnel problems.

7. Failure to give more than passing consideration to important personnel problems, such as discipline of employees; employee-administrator cooperation through employee organizations; physical, social and other conditions of employment; and in-service training opportunities.

(MORE)

8. Low prestige of the municipal service, as compared not only with private employment but also with the state and federal services.

9. Little thought and research given to career service at the local government level. Although municipal functions are of vital importance to the welfare of the American people, the federal service has captured popular imagination because federal activities are more dramatic, more publicized, and less familiar.

To overcome these obstacles the Committee on Career Service of the International City Managers' Association proposes a program in which the public, city administrators, and professional organizations play a part.

The public, says the Committee, should be educated not only by national groups seeking better government personnel in general, but by local civic groups. Laymen and administrators alike must be led to recognize the need for a comprehensive system of hiring public employees that includes much more than mere civil service, with its original selection and job classification schemes. The public also must realize that in hiring and promoting employees the city is purchasing services for which it should expect full value and is not distributing relief. Professional organizations of public officials--finance officers, public works engineers, welfare administrators--need to become more active in raising professional standards, in providing training opportunities, and in making department heads and general administrators aware of their duty to help establish a career service. They need to work for the abolition of local residence requirements. Apprenticeship opportunities in government need to be opened, giving young men and women a chance to train for public positions.

Concluding its report the committee comments that the curative program is a long-time one, but that it must be "initiated in the present and not held in reserve for the future. The obstacles are firmly entrenched, and it will take years of intensive efforts to overcome them entirely. This means that no time must be lost in opening the campaign."

The committee members who made the report include: R. M. Dorton, city manager of Long Beach, Cal., chairman; G. Lyle Belsley, executive director of the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada; F. R. Buechner, city manager of Piqua, O.; Louis Brownlow, director of Public Administration Clearing House; John M. Gaus, professor of political science, University of Wisconsin; Luther M. Gulick, director of the Institute of Public Administration, New York City; C. W. Ham, executive director of the American Municipal Association; C. A. Harrell, city manager of Binghamton, N. Y.; Charles E. Merriam, chairman of the department of political science of the University of Chicago; Neville Miller, mayor of Louisville, Ky.; William E. Mosher, dean of the School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University; and Leonard D. White, U.S. Civil Service Commissioner.

OCT 20 1936

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, October 26

Constitutional Questions on State Ballots

Voters of at least 32 states, having marked their ballots for president and vice-president and for several dozen candidates for state, county, judicial and city offices, will still have to scratch their heads over from one to 35 propositions on November 3. A total of 150 referenda will be decided at the general elections, according to a survey of constitutional amendments and other issues which will be on the ballots this year.

Social security measures of one sort or another will be voted upon in at least eight states. Arkansas, one of the eight, will decide whether or not to finance aid for the aged and for the needy blind by a retail sales tax.

Ten states will vote on some form of tax limitation or exemption, while Minnesota will consider abolition of the property tax for state purposes and Michigan, complete abolition of taxes on real and personal property. Washington will decide whether or not to continue its present tax limitation; Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, Nevada and Oregon, whether to institute tax limits; Arkansas, North Carolina and Utah, whether homesteads should be partially exempt from taxation; and Louisiana, whether certain industries should be tax exempt. At the same time that they consider property tax limitation, Coloradoans will decide whether or not to sanction a state income tax. Mississippi's ballot contains an amendment permitting a state income or sales tax.

The largest number of constitutional issues stand on Louisiana's ballot. There are 35 of them. California has 24, and Colorado, Oregon and Washington, 9 apiece.

Several states are considering liquor control measures, among them North Dakota, California and Texas, the last named state voting on a state liquor dispensary system with local option.

Provisions for the consolidation or altering of county and city governments will be voted upon in Alabama, California and Florida. Florida's amendment applies specifically to the city of Key West and its county, and Alabama's to Birmingham and its county.

In Washington and Oregon the question of putting the state into business arises. Washington voters will consider a proposal for the creation of "Production for Use Districts" to manufacture, grow, buy and otherwise acquire goods, wares, commodities and products. Oregon will vote on a proposed state-owned and operated "Bank of Oregon," with the governor as head of the board of directors.

Among other constitutional issues are these: Arkansas and Louisiana, free textbooks for the public schools; Montana, requirement of certificates of health for applicants for marriage licenses; and fixing of 8-hour day; Ohio, repeal of present sales tax on food; Oregon, a proposal prohibiting compulsory military training in state universities and colleges.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Tuesday, October 27

Tax limitation

Cities Stand against Tax Limitation

Definite condemnation of the principle, purposes and results of overall tax limitations was expressed by the American Municipal Association in a resolution passed at its recent annual conference in Chicago.

Indicating disbelief that it is possible for local governments to continue exercising control over their personnel policies, services and expenditures when taxes are inflexibly limited by law, the resolution condemned the "chief proponents" of tax limitations as not "genuinely concerned with tax reduction."

"Their admitted purpose," read the resolution, "is to reduce governmental revenues below minimum requirements in order to force a shifting of the tax load, which in general has resulted in new consumer taxes."

Written into the resolution was a reference to Michigan, which on November 3 conducts a referendum vote on the total abolition of all property taxes, the first time such a proposal has been made in any state. "No better evidence of the indifference of the proponents of overall tax limitation to efficient governmental administration and the interests of the people as a whole need be found," said the resolution, "than the present situation in the state of Michigan, where, after a drastic tax limitation had been adopted, the proponents now have forced to vote a proposal to abolish all tax on property in that state." Michigan at present has a 15-mill limitation.

Eight states have overall tax limitation laws at present. Washington, one of the eight, will vote November 3 on whether to continue the measure. Georgia's legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment providing for tax limitation which now awaits the approval or disapproval of the state's voters. Citizens in Massachusetts, Oregon, Colorado and Nevada will also find tax limitation questions on their ballots.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Wednesday, October 28

Supreme Court Closes Door to Municipal Bankruptcy

Approximately 90 local governmental units--cities, counties, school districts and special assessment districts in 20 states--that were attempting to settle defaulted debts through the Federal Municipal Bankruptcy Act will have to find another way out, due to the recent refusual by the U.S. Supreme Court to grant a rehearing of the Ashton vs. Cameron County (Texas) Water Improvement case.

To the vast majority of municipalities, says A.M. Hillhouse, research director of the Municipal Finance Officers' Association, and author of the recently published Municipal Bonds--A Century of Experience, this action by the Supreme Court is of no immediate significance. During the worst of the depression period not more than about three per cent of a total of 175,000 municipalities were ever in default. The debt difficulties of this small number have in most of the instances been settled or are well on the way to final adjustment.

Here and there, however, a few municipalities are still in extreme circumstances, with per capita debts ranging from $1000 to $5000, says Mr. Hillhouse. "To such communities the Federal Municipal Bankruptcy Act offered real hope. This Act provided that a majority of creditors and the municipality could, with the consent of a federal district court, scale down the principal of and interest charges on outstanding bonds to match the present and future capacity of the municipality to pay. Without the power in a federal court to force minority creditors to agree to terms acceptable to the majority, minority creditors can hold out for payment in full and block any debt settlement.

Refusal by the Supreme Court to rehear the case is "regrettable," according to Mr. Hillhouse. "Bankruptcy procedure," he says, "was the best guarantee that the more serious municipal debt difficulties would be settled amicably, and that the unfortunate experiences following the depression of 1873 would not be repeated."

In the years after the depression of '73, he explains, "there were many cases where municipal debt difficulties were involved in court action and creditor wranglings for ten and twenty years, to the great detriment of majority creditors and communities alike. It was hoped that following the depression of 1929-1936 the Federal Municipal Bankruptcy Act could be kept on the books long enough so that the extreme municipal debt troubles could be cleared away speedily and without long-drawn-out litigation."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Thursday, October 29

Weights & measures — Training - Inspect

Weights and Measures School

Special short training courses to refurbish the technical knowledge of policemen, firemen and waterworks engineers have been offered in a number of states for several years, but Virginia is first to provide continued training for municipal weights and measures inspectors.

When these city employees, whose duty it is to check on the accuracy of the grocer's scales and the gas-station pumps, met last month for their second annual training course conducted by the League of Virginia Municipalities, they decided to make the school a progressive five-year course. With the assistance of the National Bureau of Standards, which is outlining the course, the students will cover a different aspect of their work each year.

Weights and measures inspectors of the state have formed the Virginia Weights and Measures Association, announced purpose of which is to increase the effectiveness of weights and measures work and to make it possible for the members to attack important problems jointly and endeavor to further their mutual interests. The League of Virginia Municipalities serves as secretariat of the association.

The Virginia league pioneered with training schools for local government officials and employees with a police school in 1932. Since that time the program has been expanded gradually to include police chiefs, building inspectors, waterworks officials, weights and measures officials, policemen and firemen. Several thousand municipal employees have registered for the schools, which have been held in all sections of the state. The League has laid tentative plans in conjunction with the State Division of Trade and Industrial Education not only to continue the schools established to date, but gradually to expand the in-service training program to include practically all municipal officers and employees.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, October 30

Employment

The Federal and State Employment Service

Thirty-seven states are now cooperating with the United States Employment Service in the task of supplying workers for jobs and jobs for workers, according to W. Frank Persons, director of the Service, which is in the U.S. Department of Labor. Five additional states have passed legislation enabling them to take advantage of the provisions of the Wagner-Peyser Act, which provides for a nation-wide network of employment offices financed and operated on a cooperative basis by the states and the federal government.

Writing in Public Welfare News, bulletin of the American Public Welfare Association, Director Persons sees an important future for these agencies in the administration of unemployment compensation, since the Social Security Act orders that all benefits must be paid through public employment offices.

Before Congress passed the Wagner-Peyser Act in June, 1933, Mr. Persons explains, there were in existence only 135 public employment offices in 23 states. The process of establishing new state services and affiliating them with the United States Employment Service was too time-consuming to meet the emergency demand for workers with CWA, PWA and later WPA. Consequently, a temporary federally operated employment service was established to serve those states which did not have public employment offices and to supplement the employment services provided by some of the other states. At present there are 1282 public employment offices in 48 states operated directly by the U.S. Employment Service and 375 offices operated by state governments cooperating under the terms of the Wagner-Peyser Act.

The U.S. Employment Service was "not set up purely for the function of serving government projects," says Mr. Persons,"but as an organization designed to serve all workers and all employers. In the past three years the government has loomed large as an employer, but private employers have increasingly taken advantage of the selective service. From July 1, 1933, to August 31, 1936, the offices affiliated with the U.S. Employment Service registered and classified 23,697,482 workers looking for employment and made 16,832,626 placements in jobs. Of these placements 5,457,370 were in public employment, 3,781,331 in private employment, and 7,593,925 were security wage placements on work-relief projects."

"The major objective of the United States Employment Service," says Mr. Persons, "is the development of a service to which job seekers and employers alike will look first in their efforts to effect an employment relationship. The program for intensification of private placement efforts is a step toward the realization of this objective. Insofar as this aim is obtained, the ranks of the unemployed, whether self-sustaining on work projects, or in receipt of direct relief, will be diminished. With the upturn in industry, the Employment Service is in a position to facilitate the orderly transfer of workers from unemployment or made work to gainful employment."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Saturday, October 31

Cities to Bring Their Planning Problems to Conference

San Diego wants to know what cities can do to regulate subdivisions, to insure that all residential lots are serviced by sewerage and water connections and other public service facilities before plats can be recorded and lots sold. Des Moines would like to ascertain an effective method of regulating tourist cabin location on new highways within the city limits. South Dakota cities are concerned because indigent "off-the-farm" families have settled in poor shacks just within or beyond the boundary and want municipal services for which they cannot afford to pay and which the cities are financially unable to give them. Can anything be done about it, they ask.

These planning problems and many others will be discussed at a conference called by the American Society of Planning Officials on the proper administration of a city planning agency and on relationships between city planning and county, regional and state planning. The meeting will be held in Chicago, November 19 and 20.

The city planning officials will contribute suggestions and ideas out of their own experiences on such matters as: the proper composition of planning boards; the role of the city engineer in city planning activities; how far planning commissions should go in the preparation of detailed plans; relationships with the county and state planning boards; and the planning board's relation to the mayor, the city council, the department of public works, the local Chamber of Commerce and other civic associations.

"City planning has come a long way from its depression low during the past two or three years," says Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials. "Part of the waking-up process we are seeing is the realization that planning is not merely a matter of building a 'City Beautiful.' The fact is being recognized by our cities that real city planning implies planned expenditures for streets, playgrounds and parks, sewers, public buildings and other municipal facilities, so as to obtain the most effective and economical disbursement of funds."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Monday, November 2

C. H.
OCT 30 1936
BRARY

Junior Chamber of Commerce to Educate on City Planning

A giant exhibition on city planning will be gathered from cities and towns all over the country through the Junior Chamber of Commerce of the United States in connection with the city planning show to be held in New York City in February, 1937. The New York exhibit will be sponsored by Mayor LaGuardia's Committee on City Planning.

Cooperation in this project, as announced in the American Society of Planning Officials' News Letter, marks the beginning of an educational program devised by the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce to promote the understanding of city planning by the business man and taxpayer.

Junior Chambers of Commerce in every city are invited to participate by preparing for the New York exhibition materials pertaining to what has been, is being or should be accomplished in the way of city planning in their respective localities. The material will be assembled and arranged in New York with the assistance of the Municipal Art Society and others. The exhibit will be held in the Hall of Education of the Museum of National History, beginning February 25, 1937.

It has been proposed that following the exhibition a part or all of it should be sent on tour as a loan to Junior Chambers of Commerce throughout the country. It has also been suggested that the whole exhibit, with any new material added on tour, might be returned to New York in 1939, to become an important part of the World's Fair.

William Exton, Jr., is the executive officer of the national city planning committee of the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce in charge of the exhibition program. There are approximately 60,000 members of this group in the United States.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of 1930
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, November 3

Humanizing Government a Job for City Managers

Making a human instrument of his local government instead of merely an economical, efficient mechanism is the job of the city manager, Hollis R. Thompson, himself manager of Berkeley, California, told members of the International City Managers' Association at their recent conference in Richmond, Va.

A city manager can employ experts for engineering, legal, financial and public health problems, and can in other matters foster business and professional efficiency, said City Manager Thompson, but he alone is the officer "who can coordinate all of this efficiency for the greatest possible promotion of the general welfare of the whole city population."

One of the chief aims of council-manager government, he pointed out, is to do the job more scientifically by applying the tests of the laboratory. But this does not mean, he added, that managers should be "dispassionate pieces of machinery;" if they are, they will not "retain the human interest of the people of the city." In addition to building parks and playgrounds, the city managers must see to it that the parks and playgrounds become centers expressing the government's interest in men, women and children all over the city.

In Mr. Thompson's opinion "city managers are pioneers in a movement which will do more to return to the people confidence in the democratic form of government than any movement now apparent in the governmental affairs of the nation". He said: "People have unconsciously gained a false impression through seeing countless newspaper articles and cartoons depicting unsavory conditions in the governments of cities, counties, states, and the nation. They are led to believe that bad, inefficient, even corrupt conditions in one city are typical of all governments. The confidence of the people in their own ability to govern themselves will be restored wherever city managers are reducing tax burdens, making a more scientific approach to cities' fiscal problems, and responding better to the needs of the people in terms of service."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, November 4

New Aspects of Public Personnel Work

Present-day civil service commissioners and public personnel administrators are interested in many problems which received little if any attention in the days when civil service laws were viewed solely as measures for protecting governmental employees from political pressure. At the recent annual meeting of the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada in Cincinnati evidence of the new slant on public personnel work came from industrial personnel directors, civil service o officials and representatives of civic, professional and employee groups.

From J. Walter Dietz, Western Electric's superintendent of industrial relations, the civil service commissions at the conference heard the opinion that a "common language" is greatly needed today to describe the various grades of business and industrial as well as governmental jobs. He pointed out that much confusion exists among personnel managers when the same work is called by many different names.

A partial answer to this problem is the job analysis now being made through the U.S. Employment Service, which was explained by William H. Stead, associate director. Working in 13 states, the field analysts of the U.S. Employment Service are developing standard descriptions for every occupation in industry, for an enclyclopedia that eventually is expected to total nearly 10,000 job classifications.

Martin F.Carpenter, president of the International Association of Public Employment Services, which is composed of the directors of federal, state, municipal and Canadian employment offices, said that the use of the merit system had made it possible for the employment services "to be completely free from the special interests of various pressure groups--whether political, social, or religious." Unless the employment service is free from outside interference, he said, the employer, private or public, cannot expect to obtain an employee whose recommendation is based on merit only.

Modernization of civil service tests for federal government jobs was cited by Dr. L.J. O'Rourke, director of research for the U.S. Civil Service Commission, as a means of saving over $2,000,000 annually in postal employee personnel alone. New tests devised through research showed some errors in the old adage "slow but sure." The tests proved that slow postal clerks who did less than half as much work as the rapid clerks made three times as many errors.

How civil service employees in the state and local governments are participating in the new developments was told by James W. Errant, executive director of the National Association of Civil Service Employee Organizations. Thousands of local and state governmental employees have joined public service organizations in 11 states. Besides looking after rates of pay and working conditions, and protecting and promoting civil service rights, these groups, whose memberships range from 150 to over 12,000 apiece, in many cases furnish life and health insurance, death benefits, operate credit unions and cooperative stores, and have definite programs for increasing the prestige of the public service.

Joint effort for the improvement of government personnel was pledged by representatives of such civic, professional and employee organizations as the National League of Women Voters, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the International City Managers' Association, the American Association of Social Workers, the American Nurses' Association, the National Federation of Federal Employees and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Thursday, November 5

Calculating Costs of Slums and Blighted Areas

A favorite argument for low-cost housing to replace slums is the fact that slums and blighted areas cost cities much more than the income they bring in taxes. More than a few cities have completed surveys bringing evidence to light in support of this conclusion. But Coleman Woodbury, executive director of the National Association of Housing Officials, cautions against a too hasty interpretation of these studies.

One of the principal misinterpretations, according to Mr. Woodbury, is the notion that clearing and rebuilding the blighted and slum areas will wipe out the "deficits" that result from the high municipal expenditures in these districts as compared with their low taxpaying abilities.

It is becoming increasingly evident, he says, that most residential neighborhoods pay in taxes amounts insufficient to cover the cost of municipal services received. In reality most districts, slum or middle-class,are subsidized by income derived from real estate taxes on business and industrial properties or from other kinds of taxation. The real question is the relative size of and the reasons for the "deficits," for it is obvious in many cases that the tax assessments against certain residential areas represent neither the ability of the occupants to pay nor the value of the municipal services they receive.

"Rehousing families," Mr. Woodbury points out, "will not increase much their ability to pay for governmental services, particularly in the immediate future. Better housing is an increase in the real income of the rehoused families in terms of the benefits they receive over a period of time, but not in their cash income, from which alone they pay taxes." However, in the light of modern emphasis on the effects of childhood environment upon physique and personality, he adds, the widespread economic benefits of a comprehensive housing program are convincing to any fair-minded person.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 E. 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, November 6

Crime detection

Wichita's Use of the Lie Detector

Police departments in a number of American cities use the polygraph, nicknamed "lie detector," for special criminal suspects when other techniques have failed to extract confession. But Wichita, Kansas, reports the Police Chiefs' News Letter, official bulletin of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, operates its polygraph continuously during each working day, and has done so for the past three years.

Suspects in all types of crime from murder to petit larceny are examined by an operator, whose only duty is to determine the guilt or innocence of those brought to him by police detectives, and to examine vagrants who are picked up and held overnight.

Over the three-year period the Wichita Police Department has obtained approximately 20 confessions a month that would not have been secured without the use of the lie detector, Police Chief O. W. Wilson reports. Statistics show that approximately 60 per cent of those caught lying by the polygraph actually confess their guilt.

As an example of the efficiency of the lie detector, Chief Wilson quotes an incident of 1935,when a series of taxicab hold-ups was reported to the police. In less than two months, the crime had been reported by twelve different taxi-drivers. When the drivers were examined with the lie-detector, nine of them confessed that their reports had been false before the investigation was finished. They had made the false reports to evade paying the cab company their usual fees. One of the other three drivers refused to admit his report false, but the polygraph records indicated that he was lying. The remaining two cases were actual holdups and the bandit was later caught.

"Floaters" or transient vagrants are examined on the polygraph to determine whether they are guilty of an offense for which they might be wanted by police. The results of the examinations, reports Chief Wilson, have solved crimes that were committed hundreds of miles distant and have returned escaped convicts to their respective institutions.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936

Release: Saturday, November 7

Checking on Job Classification Plans

Well-conducted civil service commissions and other public personnel agencies have an important responsibility in addition to their usual duty of holding examinations for candidates for jobs. A pamphlet just issued by the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada gives specific information about the performance of the little known but important task of making a continual check on job classifications.

The pamphlet, entitled, "The Administration of a Classification Plan through Periodic Audits," is based upon the experience of its author, Ismar Baruch, as chief of the division of personnel classification of the U.S. Civil Service Commission. In the federal government the duties of all positions have been ascertained and accurately described and on the basis of this analysis of duties the positions have been "classified", so as to insure comparable titles and comparable salaries for work requiring about the same degree of competence. Mr. Baruch makes the point that three kinds of changes are occurring all the time in the federal and in other public personnel classification systems. Reorganizations, new activities and revisions of methods and processes cause change; new positions are established by operating officials out of lump-sum appropriations, and this brings about change; and the duties of individual positions change because one employee becomes more capable and can handle a larger quantity of work or more intricate work than another who has been given the same job title.

The changes that occur because of an individual employee's competence or incompetence, according to Mr. Baruch, "are just as important and deserving of the same recognition in classification and compensation procedures," as those due to direct administrative order, although the latter are as a rule more promptly reported.

Periodic surveys or audits of all positions, as they have been made in the federal civil service for several years, provide an accurate check on all changes, Mr. Baruch explains. The audits, he says, offer "the most reliable method of obtaining all the facts on job classifications. Sooner or later in a classification survey every position is explored. When this occurs, and the findings of the investigator are made known to administrative officials, they frequently have unfolded before them evidence of duplication of work, overlapping of responsibility, or lack of coordination between functions of which they have been unaware. These can be, and generally are, promptly corrected, but they might have continued indefinitely had not the organization been surveyed for classification purposes."

IIT. LIBRARY

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936

Release: Monday, November 9

Preparing for a "Boom"

If the mounting curve of industrial production, improved municipal credit, the sharp rise in the marriage rate, and the large increase in home construction are true signs of a coming boom, city planners have an "advance job" laid out for themselves, according to Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials.

"The present", Mr. Blucher says,"is a very good time to review some of the wasteful and inefficient municipal practices of the recent past, with a view to avoiding their repetition and substituting more effective practices for future programs of civic development."

One way in which cities can protect the private and public investment in land and buildings is to restudy and perhaps redraft the local zoning ordinance to see if it stabilizes and protects, or rather helps to maintain high and largely fictitious speculative values.

City plans should be reconsidered in the light of the need for additional lands to house new families of the increasing and shifting population. The need for additional streets, gas and water mains, new schools and adequate recreation space should be calculated in advance of the "boom" period--not as in the majority of cases in the past, when too much subdivided territory with expensive streets, utilities and sidewalks was provided.

Not only should the physical changes in cities be determined several years in advance, says Mr. Blucher, but a capital budget should be set up to distribute over a period of years the costs of the development program. When unemployment figures are up and interest rates down it is a good time for municipal public works building; but some public works, such as streets, sewers, schools and hospitals are needed in good times or bad, and should be provided for.

The city plan commission is the logical agency to determine future city needs in the way of areas for home building, sensibly related to employment centers, with streets and transit facilities for people to move easily back and forth to work, to school, to the grocery store, to the city hall, to the movies, to the city's parks, and out to the suburbs and the open countryside. And to determine how all these municipal services can be supplied on a high plane of administrative, technical and social efficiency, at as low a cost to the taxpayer as possible.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, November 10

Police-Surveys

Police-Studies

Cincinnati Checks Police Beats

Cincinnati's Department of Public Safety believes that a policeman covering a limited beat on foot is a most effective means of not only preventing crime in the troublesome districts of a city, but of dealing with a number of other social situations. To determine the proper, minimum number of foot partolmen for the city's own troublesome "basin area," the department has sponsored a survey showing the amount of work a patrolman can perform efficiently in an eight-hour shift in such a neighborhood. A report on the survey has just been published by the American Public Welfare Association to serve as a guide to other cities wishing to make similar studies.

Demands of present day metropolitan life, the survey explains, require that a patrolman "be much more than the threat of a uniform, a badge and a nightstick." He should be, to a certain extent, a social worker familiar with his cases and their problems. And he should have time to study those problems and, to the extent of his authority, work out the solutions that will prevent delinquent individuals from beginning or continuing careers of crime.

Cincinnati's basin area, four square miles in size, is an insignificant part of the 73 square miles of the whole city, but it demands considerably more than half the total time spent in policing the entire metropolis. Mixture of races, poverty, and poor living conditions in the area contribute to the crime rates in this area which shows homicide figures for Cincinnati as a whole 124 per cent above the national average, figures for aggravated assault 85 per cent, and figures for larceny and theft 20 per cent higher than the average for the country.

The chief reason for the high criminal average of the "basin," according to the survey, is that criminals know they have better than a 50-50 chance of escaping after committing a crime because of the inadequacy of police protection. In 1934, for example, only about 3700 of approximately 8000 major offenses known to the police were cleared by arrest. "Because of the relatively small personnel," says the survey, "the Police Department can attain its maximum efficiency only by concentrating on the solution of major crimes. To divide its limited resources between both detection and prevention of crime would result in two jobs poorly done."

The survey criticizes the present beats as being for the most part too large to permit efficient patrolling, and indicates that social conditions in the various police districts have so changed since the beats and districts were laid out many years ago that there is no uniformity in the activity required to police them.

The survey works out what it considers properly-sized police beats for the basin area, so that each one will take no more than 460 minutes to patrol thoroughly. This would necessitate an addition of 111 men to the Department for foot patrol. A redistricting of police divisions is also recommended, so that uniform social conditions prevail in each district, which will give patrolmen a chance to "specialize" against its characteristic crimes. The survey also recommends that patrolmen covering beats be relieved of all traffic duties except those of an emergency nature, and that a sufficient number of police sergeants be freed from station house clerical duties or added to the existing corps of officers so that a thorough system of inspection of foot beat patrolling methods may be maintained constantly.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936

Release: Wednesday, November 11

Teachers' Oath Laws in 21 States

Prediction that teachers' oath laws will be a lively topic in 1937 legislative sessions is made by State Government, official magazine of the Council of State Governments, on the basis of high feeling on this controversial subject during the past two years.

State Government lists twenty-one states and the District of Columbia which now require candidates for teaching position to swear an oath of allegiance to the government.

The Kentucky and West Virginia laws date back to before the Civil War, when these states feared defection of their teachers to the Confederate cause. In 1866, after the cessation of armed hostilities, Arkansas, Missouri and Nevada passed teachers' oath laws.

During the World War and early post-war period seven states enacted this type of legislation: Rhode Island in 1917, Ohio in 1919, and Colorado, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, and South Dakota in 1921.

Between 1921 and 1930 only three states determined to require loyalty oaths from their teachers: West Virginia (1923), Florida (1925) and Indiana (1929). Since 1931, however, a strong offensive by supporters of similar legislation has resulted in the enactment of new teachers' oath laws in twelve states and the District of Columbia. The states are California, Montana, North Dakota and Washington (1931); New York (1934); and Arizona, Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Texas and Vermont (1935).

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 1936
Release: Thursday, November 12

Pasadena Has Successful Intergovernmental Employment Bureau

Pasadena has demonstrated that intergovernmental cooperation can be practicable and effective in the employment field. The Pasadena Employment Bureau, reports Public Management, official magazine of the International City Managers' Association, has successfully completed its first year as a city-state-federal undertaking.

During the year some 13,283 persons in this California city registered for work and 8,132 were placed in jobs. Of the total number of placements, 2,490 were in private enterprises, 3,309 in public and PWA, and 2,333 in WPA.

Since July, 1935, all community employment services in the city have been centralized in this bureau. It is a city department affiliated with the California State Employment Service and the United States Employment Service. The bureau also plays an important part in the coordination of the WPA program with other community agencies. All WPA workers are required to register with the bureau, and monthly clearances are made to insure that there is no person on work relief who might secure regular employment.

Working in close cooperation with the employment bureau is the Pasadena Vocation Bureau, which supplies guidance and consultation for those who do not know what work they wish to follow, or those having jobs unsuited to their abilities. The Vocation Bureau, which has been providing consultation service for 16 years, is not a city department but is supported by the Community Chest. Since the centralization of employment services was accomplished in 1935, the bureau reports that it is able to function more effectively. Standardized interest tests and aptitude tests are now being given to applicants as an aid in determining vocational abilities.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936

Release: Friday, November 13

Small Cities Now Able to Afford Personnel Systems

Expert personnel procedures may now be installed in the cities of two states where the cities themselves are unprepared to support a full time public personnel agency. In California and Michigan, instead of supporting a civil service office individually, some cities are contracting for personnel services with outside bodies.

The Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada reports in its Current news letter that Inglewood, California, city of 16,000, recently contracted with the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission to examine candidates for its police department. This is the second city in the state to take advantage of the special provision in the state laws that permits the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission to perform service to municipalities outside Los Angeles. Some time ago South Gate elected to participate in a similar contract.

Three Michigan cities--Flint, Dearborn and Saginaw--are now operating personnel systems established in cooperation with the Michigan Municipal League. The Michigan Municipal League has organized a staff of personnel technicians to render continuous operating services on a cost basis to these three cities and to all member cities of the league. Under this plan cities that could not ordinarily afford to maintain staffs of specialists to examine applicants for jobs, to classify positions, to conduct in-service training programs and to perform the many tasks involved in modern personnel administration can pool their resources and get the services through the central agency of the league of municipalities at a cost within their means.

"The economy of contracting for personnel service--a new departure--should make it possible for any city to obtain the benefits of the merit system if voters want it," says G. Lyle Belsley, executive director of the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada. "At one time cities with fewer than 500 employees hesitated to install civil service because of its cost. The reason for this hesitancy has been overcome in California and Michigan, and cities in these states should serve as good examples for procedure that can be followed to advantage elsewhere."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936

Release: Saturday, November 14

State Provisions for Medical Care of the Poor

States are shouldering more responsibility for medical care of those with low income, according to an analysis of legal provisions of twelve "sample" states made by the Rosenwald Fund and published by the American Public Welfare Association. The study was made in order to determine the extent to which state laws provide for public medical care or have authorized local authorities to provide it.

States chosen to show the general picture were Massachusetts, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Utah and California--as representatives of different sections of the country and differing conditions.

The study revealed that while in some of these states the programs have been restricted to "meager provisions for tuberculosis and venereal diseases," in other states the programs are extensive, and indicate frequently that the development of resources for maternal and child health and for crippled children has been stimulated by federal action. Provisions for general hospital care of the indigent, on the other hand, range from almost total absence in Georgia to the extensive enactments in Michigan known as the Afflicted Adults' and Afflicted Children's Acts. Eight of the twelve states allow governmental contribution to so-called voluntary hospitals, not owned or operated by the government. The form of subsidy ranges from tax-exemption, found in most of the cases, to annual appropriations for approved institutions, as in Pennsylvania. This power of a governmental unit to contract with voluntary hospitals for service and to extend public subsidy and support are of "great practical importance," according to the study.

As an example of the recent expansion of provision for medical care of the poor, Vermont passed a number of laws and amendments in 1935 and 1936. The 1935 version of the Vermont old age pension law makes beneficiaries eligible for medical and surgical aid or hospitalization. The Board of School Directors last year was authorized to expend a percentage of its budget for health services for the children of indigent parents--to buy milk or lunches, to purchase glasses, to provide dental services, etc. In the 1936 special legislative session of the State Board of Health was ordered to submit plans and provide for the extension and improvement of maternal and child health services "in needy areas and among groups in special need." Hospitalization of crippled children of the poor was provided for by recent enactment also.

Wisconsin in 1935 authorized its State Board of Health to submit a plan for maternal and child health services under the new federal program, and arranged to pay $1,000 annually to every county employing one or more public health nurses. Another law gave every county permission to establish a county hospital for the treatment of indigent persons and others who cannot afford to pay for necessary care.

In many states, the study points out, most provisions for public medical care are a part of the old pauper law, and require that a person be totally without resources in order to be eligible for aid. Thus it is impossible to provide for persons of low income.

P.A.C.H.
U. LIBRARY

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release upon receipt

Civil Service Approved by Five Cities and One County

Voters of five cities and one county in the country provided for the improvement of their employee personnel by marking a cross in front of civil service proposals on November 3 ballots, according to the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada. In two states--California and Washington--civil service measures affecting cities and counties were defeated.

Muskegon, Mich. (pop. 41,390) electors voted 3,695 to 2,227 to place nearly all all municipal employees under a civil service system. Two other Michigan cities--Adrian (pop. 13,064) and Ypsilanti (pop. 10,143)--voted three to one to hire firemen by civil service. Dearborn (pop. 50,348) voted to consolidate its two civil service commissions into one commission.

The city of Rahway, N.J., and Camden County, N.J., voted to come under the New Jersey state civil service law, which means that in the future all their employees will be examined and approved by the state civil service commission. Since the passage of the New Jersey law in 1908, 21 local governments, including these two, have adopted civil service.

Astoria, Ore. (pop. 10,349) was the seventh city to adopt a civil service measure. A vote of 2275 against 1347 favored selection of firemen by this method instead of by appointment.

The California proposal, an initiative measure, would have extended civil service to every county and city in the state with a population over 1,000. It had been opposed by public personnel officers and other local government officials, who saw in it a step backward from existing civil service practices and provisions, which would have been repealed by the new law. California, by popular vote last year, strengthened and revised its state civil service system.

Washington's proposed act, which would have made civil service mandatory in the counties, cities, ports, school and park districts, and public libraries, was opposed by the cities mainly on the ground that it affected municipal home-rule.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release upon receipt

Voters Favor Retaining Property Tax

The property tax, mainstay of local government revenue, continues to meet with popular favor. Voters in five states on November 3 rejected abolition or limitation of property taxes. Only two states approved tax limit proposals.

In Michigan a proposal to abolish the property tax entirely was defeated at the polls. At the same time voters in Minnesota rejected a proposed constitutional amendment which would have abolished the property tax for state purposes, leaving this tax as a source of revenue exclusively for counties, cities and other local governments.

In five states constitutional amendments limiting property tax rates were on the ballot. These tax limitations would have had the effect of reducing present governmental revenues from the property tax and presumably would have forced the governments to seek new sources of revenue. In Colorado, Georgia, and Oregon tax limitation measures were defeated. In Nevada a 50-mill tax limitation was adopted for the first time and in Washington voters decided to continue the present 40-mill tax limit for another two years.

The movement for overall tax rate limitation has been nation-wide during the past five years, points out Carl H. Chatters, executive director of the Municipal Finance Officers' Association. Constitutional overall tax limits have been adopted during this period by popular vote in Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, New Mexico and West Virginia. Results of this year's elections would indicate that such measures do not have the popular appeal they had a short time ago.

"Most students of public finance are opposed to drastic overall constitutional tax limitations," says Mr. Chatters. "In fact, even the proponents of such measures view them primarily as devices for forcing a redistribution of the tax burden and not as sound steps towards an ideal tax system. Experience has indicated that tax limits are most likely to force the adoption of sales taxes. There is general agreement among tax authorities that sales taxes alone are not equitable substitutes for any inconsistencies now found in the general property tax."

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release upon receipt

Vote on Governmental Simplification

An important step toward the simplification of local government in the interests of economy and effectiveness of operation was taken November 3 in California, where voters approved a constitutional amendment under which it will be possible by local referendum to consolidate city and county governments.

The new amendment broadens a previous constitutional provision that permitted consolidated government only for counties with over 200,000 population.

California now has one consolidated city-county government--San Francisco. The City and County of San Francisco was established in 1856. In Los Angeles County and several other counties in California, according to Robert M. Paige, secretary of the Governmental Research Association, city-county consolidation is now being advocated.

November 3 also saw the ratification in Florida of a constitutional amendment which will permit city-county consolidation in Key West. This town has been practically bankrupt for a number of years. City-county consolidation is viewed as one step towards its financial rehabilitation.

In Alabama voters by a narrow margin declined to approve a constitutional amendment which would have permitted consolidation of various offices in Birmingham and Jefferson County governments.

City-county consolidation is an issue receiving active attention at the present time in Atlanta, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and several other metropolitan areas in the country.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release upon receipt

Insurance Stmt - 1

Five Additional States Approve Social Security Measures

Voters of five states signified approval of state constitutional changes proposed on November 3 ballots designed to enable their states to participate in the federal social security program. They were Colorado, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana and South Carolina. Three other states--Nevada, Oregon and Washington--with questions involving social security up for vote, defeated the measures. The Oregon amendment, if passed, however, would have resulted in withdrawal of the state from co-operation with the national social security act.

All of the five approved amendments concerned old age assistance. Kansas, in addition, considered and approved an amendment dealing with unemployment compensation. Louisiana's proposition included mothers' and children's aid and welfare, unemployment compensation and assistance to the blind. South Carolina's amendment gave the legislature power to enact social security legislation.

The Colorado amendment reduced the minimum age limit for old age assistance eligibility from 65 to 60, five years below the federal requirement. The essential feature of the new provision is that the pension is granted more as a matter of right than in other states, where need is the basis. A mandatory grant of $45.00 per month to recipients is provided, of which $15.00 is reimbursable by the federal government. The former pension law is liberalized by the new amendment, so that pensioners who may receive money after being on state aid rolls are not liable for repayments to the state.

The November elections have had the result of placing social security on a firmer basis in the states. According to the American Public Welfare Association, all states are now receiving grants under some provision of the Social Security Act. Thirty-nine states have federally approved plans for old age assistance, twenty-two for aid to the blind, and twenty-three for aid to dependent children. In addition, fourteen states and the District of Columbia now have federally approved unemployment compensation laws.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release upon receipt

Motor vehicles - Taxation

Colorado Eliminates Property-tax Dodging on Automobiles

Chances of dodging taxes on automobiles in Colorado were substantially reduced by voters' approval on November 3 of a constitutional amendment which directs the General Assembly to exempt motor vehicles, trailers, and semi-trailers from the general property tax and to substitute a "graduated annual specific ownership tax" payable simultaneously with the purchase of a state license. The new tax is to be in addition to state registration or license fees and applies to all vehicles which are not in process of manufacture, in storage, or in the hands of manufacturers, distributors, or dealers.

Checking up on automobile owners has become a difficult job for assessors in the states that still subject motor vehicles to locally administered property taxes, comments Albert W. Noonan, technical director of the National Association of Assessing Officers. A few years ago the United States Bureau of Public Roads made a survey from which it concluded that only about 60 per cent of the taxable motor vehicles in the country were actually listed on the tax rolls in 1931. This evasion has been a contributing factor in the abolition of property taxation of motor vehicles in 18 states.

While all states license motor vehicles and require payment of some fee before granting the license, in 30 states and the District of Columbia motor vehicles are also subjected to some form of local property taxation, according to a bulletin just issued by the National Association of Assessing Officers. Various devices have been adopted in an attempt to assure the assessment and collection of such taxes. The most effective of these has been a provision "requiring that a person licensing a motor vehicle give satisfactory evidence--usually a tax receipt-- of payment of a property tax thereon." Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, Utah, and the District of Columbia have provisions of this character. Another safeguard, found in at least ten states, consists of the provision of free lists of motor vehicle registrants arranged according to assessment districts. While the latter provision is not a complete solution to the problem, according to Mr. Noonan, it is a considerable advance over conditions in those states in which assessors must rely upon lists compiled by commercial agencies or upon the procedures by which other personal property is listed for taxation.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release upon receipt

Justice Administration

Improvements Voted for the Courts

Arkansas "justice" was improved in two respects by voters' acceptance of propositions appearing on their ballots November 3, according to Raymond Nagle, director of the attorneys-general section of the Council of State Governments.

One of the propositions, an initiated act, will simplify court procedure in criminal cases and reduce the cost of conducting the Circuit courts by an estimated one-third. A provision of this act gives newspaper writers a professional immunity similar to that now allowed ministers, lawyers and doctors, exempting them from punishment for refusing to disclose to grand juries and other judicial bodies the source of published information, unless it can be shown that the article "was not published in the public interest."

The second proposition is an amendment that authorizes prosecutions based on information filed by the prosecuting attorney, as well as by indictments returned by the grand jury. Its purpose is to save the expense of grand jury investigations in minor cases and the additional costs of witnesses both before the grand jury and at the trial. An important provision of the amendment is the authorization for the legislature to enact statutes taking prosecuting attorneys off the fee system and fixing their salaries. According to Mr. Nagle, paying the prosecutor by fees is a practice that has been abandoned in nearly all states.

San Francisco's voters defeated a proposition to select their superior court judges by governor's appointment, but subject to popular approval at the following general election. This procedure was made possible by a constitutional amendment passed by California in 1934, and several cities have adopted it.

Odd was the defeat of the Colorado referendum to allow women to serve on juries. Colorado was one of the pioneer states in the adoption of suffrage for women.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release upon receipt

New York Officially Adopts City Planning

(city planning - New York (city))

New York City voters' two-to-one approval of their new city charter with its "strong" city planning section is hailed as a sign of growing public acceptance of city planning by the American Society of Planning Officials' News Letter. "The vote was unusually significant," says the news letter, "because most of the opposition levelled against the proposed charter was directed to the city planning section."

Criticism was directed against the planning section by its opponents because 'it would pave the way for dictatorship.' Or, 'The city-wide planning commission, provided for by the New Charter, is not needed...because each borough is better fitted to plan its own future than the commission will be.' The Charter Revision Commission argued that 'the planning commission would check the City's haphazard investment of millions of dollars in unnecessary capital improvements and would prevent the development of slums and dead spots.'

New York's planning commission, as proposed by the Charter, will consist of the Chief Engineer of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and six members to be appointed by the mayor for overlapping terms. The chairman, also named by the mayor, will receive a salary of $15,000 a year. Each borough president will appoint an advisory planning board of three members who will serve without compensation. It will be the duty of the planning commission to prepare a master plan and to recommend any subsequent changes in it, to pass upon changes in the zoning ordinance and upon subdivisions and plats, and to develop a long-time planning program. Plans are to be submitted to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for its approval, but the commission can be over-ridden only by a three-fourths vote.

Few big cities in the country have as strong provisions for a planning commission as those of the New York charter, comments Walter Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials. Detroit has a nine-man planning commission created by the charter that was adopted in 1918. The members are appointed for three-year overlapping terms, but the chairman of the commission is not a full-time official as in the case of New York. Detroit's commission power is largely advisory, although it must approve any properties for park or recreation before they can be acquired by gift or purchase. The planning commission also passes on all subdivisions, makes recommendations on streets and public buildings, and makes all landscape plans. Cincinnati's city planning commission, also created by charter, is a combination of citizens and public officials. The commission's decisions can only be over-ruled by a two-thirds vote of the common council.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, November 23

H.
RARY

Kentucky Goes on a Business Basis

Kentucky has put her state affairs on a business basis. Innovation of a Department of Finance, established as a first step in the state reorganization program begun six months ago, now centralizes authority over the purchasing, budgeting, personnel and accounting functions, and makes it possible to report periodically to the legislature and the public on the exact condition of the state's pocketbook.

Effects of the reorganization, according to Frank D. Peterson, state controller, have shown themselves not only in the new Department of Finance but also in the other state agencies, including the new Departments of Revenue and of Welfare.

The Department of Revenue, with a reduced payroll, is checking tax bills owed by citizens to the state. Delinquents and tax dodgers are made to pay up. Last month, for example, the Department of Revenue took over more than a quarter of a million dollars' worth of property belonging to six whiskey dispensing establishments to satisfy claims for taxes. Under the new arrangement the Commissioner of Revenue is head of the Department of Revenue and at the same time Chairman of the State Tax Commission, which makes possible essential unity in planning and checking on tax and revenue problems. Dr. James W. Martin, on leave from the faculty of the University of Kentucky, is the Commissioner of Revenue.

The new Department of Welfare, which handles institutional and other welfare activities, is already administering old age assistance in accordance with a plan approved by the Federal Social Security Board, and is now planning to take in other phases of the social security program.

In working out its new program, Kentucky employed the technical assistance of Public Administration Service, governmental research and survey organization with headquarters in Chicago. It is now planned to prepare comprehensive manuals describing the organization and procedures that have been installed, to facilitate state administrative operations in Kentucky and to aid other states in securing higher standards of administration.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Tuesday, November 24

(Below is a copy of an editorial that appears in the November Public Works Engineers' News Letter. It is addressed to members of the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials, who receive that engineering newsletter, but it has broader implications, and therefore we are printing it in its full form.)

A FEW LANDMARKS

Now that we have the national election out of our systems, let's try to rid our minds of some of the misconceptions and half truths that are so likely to govern our thought processes in days devoted to intense partisanship. Like other sectors of government activity, the public works field has come in for its full share of fuzzy thinking by all contending factions. In the interest of encouraging a rational approach to an extremely complex problem, the following landmarks are set down:

First: The great bulk of public works expenditure has always been undertaken by local governments. Even during the past five years, this has been true. Boulder Dams and Passamaquoddys receive the glare of publicity, but the aggregate sum represented by improvements to streets, sewers, water systems, and so on in thousands of cities and villages throughout the land leave federal projects far in the shade. Consequently, any effort to develop national benefit from public works activities must be directed toward coordinating thousands of local undertakings governed by local laws.

Second: Public works undertakings typically are neither wasteful extravagances nor merely devices to provide employment. Of course, many instances might be cited of unworthy projects extravagantly constructed, or of civic improvements coming as by-products of make-work programs. However, the characteristic public improvement project derives its primary values from an enrichment of community life. There are great values derived from the construction processes, it is true, and these may quite properly be given special emphasis during time of depression. Nevertheless, a true appraisal of any project must always give first consideration to the way the finished improvement will minister to the needs of the community.

Third: Public works improvements are not monuments, needing only an occasional scrubbing to keep them from becoming eyesores. On the contrary, they are vital, functioning devices whose unimpaired operation is indispensable to full community life. Today we undertake the first cost; tomorrow we operate, repair, and maintain. Our determination of cost must take into account both the construction of today and the maintenance and operation of tomorrow. And at both times we can be wasteful through being niggardly as well as through being prodigal.

Fourth: The great public works problem is a financial one. Increasing complexity of urban civilization appears to call for a constantly rising level of public expenditure. Nevertheless, the financial resources of local governments are steadily being restricted. It seems as though the demands of modern community living have outrun the capacity of the time honored sources of local revenue. Does a solution hinge on the development of a new fiscal foundation for local government? Here is the biggest question in the field of public works.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Release of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Wednesday, November 25

Lip Service or Civil Service

Personnel Problems

The American people have paid lip service to civil service for years, but "there has been widespread evasion of civil service procedures and in many jurisdictions a wholesale corruption of the merit system," according to Clarence A. Dykstra, city manager of Cincinnati. In a pamphlet just issued by the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada, Mr. Dykstra suggests reconsideration of the orthodox idea of the civil service.

According to the orthodox notion of civil service, he says, "we have wished to prevent the giving of public jobs for party work or because of family connection; we have tried to maintain the integrity of the service by certain ideas of tenure and employee security; and we have further put into effect standardized salaries and classification systems, plus retirement allowances of some kind in many places." In one sense, he points out, "this has been a negative program conceived in some large degree (1) as a protection against patronage and (2) as a guarantee to employees. For this latter reason...many conscientious and able executives have opposed what we have called our 'civil service system.' They insist that it has been so rigid and inflexible that they cannot operate effectively--that they cannot get rid of incompetents."

There are other forms of favoritism besides political patronage and nepotism that should be eradicated from the public service, says Mr. Dykstra. These include restriction of jobs to local residents; and veterans' preference laws, which limit large areas of the public service in many jurisdictions almost entirely to veteran groups, and in 1934 resulted in 25 per cent of all appointments going to veterans.

A modern idea of civil service, according to Mr. Dykstra, is bound to recognize that government faces "exactly the same question that confronts all industry and business--what kind of organization and what personnel can carry on most effectively in the conduct of the enterprise?" Proper management of the modern civil service will include not only testing and classification methods by which capable people can be found to perform the hundreds of technical and other tasks required of government, but also the provision of fair compensation, good working conditions, opportunities for promotion and advancement, and retirement allowances--in fact, establishing of a career service in the public business which will attract and keep some of the best talent that the nation produces.

--T H E R E I S A N O T H E R R E L E A S E O N T H E N E X T P A G E--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Thursday, November 26

Accident bureaus

Traffic Accident Investigation Becomes Police Specialty

Steel tape measures, cameras and decelerometers are familiar tools in the hands of policemen of nine cities in the country when they arrive at the scene of an automobile accident. These are the cities that have established traffic accident prevention bureaus, to make scientific check of the causes for road smash-ups, with the idea of determining who or what is to blame.

Installations of the accident prevention bureaus are made with the aid of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, through its Safety Division, which has been functioning since June of this year. Hartford and Waterbury, Conn., have most recently been added to the list of cities with this new safety measure, according to the Police Chiefs' News Letter, official bulletin of the Association. Waterbury is being made a "case study" in the preparation of a textbook which the Association is to use in the training program conducted along with the installation of the bureaus.

Syracuse and Louisville, Ky., have had the longest experience with accident investigation bureaus. Theirs were the first to be organized, under direction of Lieut. Frank M. Kreml, Evanston police officer who now heads the Safety Division of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Louisville found a 15 per cent reduction in accidents during the first six months of its bureau's existence. Syracuse won first prize in a national traffic safety contest.

Two other Connecticut cities--Bridgeport and New Haven--have had accident prevention bureaus installed. Others have been established in South Bend, Cincinnati and Saginaw, Mich. Miami's bureau is now in process of installation, and Columbus, O. and Atlanta, Ga. are next on the list.. The Michigan State Police will also be aided in training a squad of specialists in traffic accident prevention knowledge.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Friday, November 27

Economies of Centralized Purchasing in Milwaukee

Centralized purchasing saved the city of Milwaukee, Wis. more than $405,000 in 1935, according to Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association, which quotes the annual report of the city's purchasing agent.

The saving represents 15 per cent of the total amount spent for supplies and equipment used by the various municipal departments. It was made possible by the grouping of quantities, standardization of the kinds of articles used, use of definite departmental purchases, adequate inspections, a central storehouse and the concentration of responsibility.

Centralized purchasing is practiced in some part by 229 cities of the country, and by 36 states; but Milwaukee, according to the magazine, has devised some rather uncommon ways of saving thrcugh its use. The purchasing department has water bills, tax notices, letterheads and other forms for various departments multigraphed instead of printed. Coal for city departments is purchased on a heat value basis. In buying motor trucks the purchasing agent uses federal government specifications, which enables the city to get complete information about each make of motor truck considered. As is true in many cities, Milwaukee operates a storage and delivery system for gasoline and oil, which makes it possible to buy oil and gasoline in tank car lots at an average saving of 4 cents a gallon on gasoline and 12 cents a gallon on oil above all costs of operation.

New York City and Cincinnati are two other metropolitan cities that have been able to report proportionately large savings upon adopting centralized purchasing practice.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Saturday November 28

Housing - Conferences

National Association of Housing Officials in Annual Meeting

Architects, planners, business men, recreational leaders and social workers, as well as housing officials, have been invited to participate in the third annual meeting of the National Association of Housing Officials, to be held in Philadelphia, December 4 and 5.

Decentralization of the responsibility for low-rent housing will be an important topic on the two-day program. Control of federally built housing developments and of the possibilities and problems of cooperative housing will be discussed.

"With a more extensive and permanent housing program practically assured, this year's conference is especially timely," says Coleman Woodbury, director of the Association. "The housing program is about to move into its second phase. Up to this point the federal government has assumed almost complete responsibility for low-rent housing. Nearly all kinds of housers are now on record in favor of decentralizing responsibility to local agencies. And while the federal government will be a factor of great importance in the immediate future, the proper steps to decentralization must be considered at this time."

Specific proposals for reclaiming and protecting residential neighborhoods will be heard in a panel discussion at the conference, with representatives from the fields of city planning, real estate, recreation and public housing participating.

A series of meetings on the second day of the conference will have as their subjects: tenant selection; police power regulations for bettering housing; minimum physical standards and costs of housing; local land policies and housing; and housing finance. The final session will be devoted to "what is wrong with housing."

The National Association of Housing Officials was established three years ago to serve as a clearing house of information and a servicing agency for housing officials at the outset of activity in slum clearance and low-rent housing. Its president is Ernest J. Bohn, member of the housing committee of the Cleveland city council.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Monday, November 30

C. H.
IBRARY

The New "American Public Works Association"

Consolidation of the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials into a single organization, the American Public Works Association, was announced from Chicago today by the joint national headquarters of the two organizations. After maintaining a Joint Secretariat for two years, members of the two organizations voted to establish the unified association, "the better to serve the needs of those concerned with design, operation and administration in the public works field." The new constitution will go into effect in January, 1937.

There will be more than 800 members in the American Public Works Association, including the engineers and public works administrators of the principal cities of the country. The organization's purposes, as set forth in the constitution, are to advance public works construction, maintenance and operation; to spread information on improved practices in public works administration; and to encourage high professional and social standards among public works officials.

The two original organizations have been in existence for many years. The American Society of Municipal Engineers dates back to 1894. One of its contributions has been the establishment of standard specifications used by city engineers throughout the country. The International Association of Public Works Officials was organized in 1919. Work of its committee on uniform street and sanitation records has brought about substantial improvement in these practices in many cities.

"Although the American Society of Municipal Engineers has emphasized the problems of the designer and the International Association of Public Works Officials has emphasized those of the operator," points out Frank W. Herring, director of the consolidated organization, "their memberships have overlapped considerably, and, particularly during the past five years, they have appealed to the same group of public officials. To a growing degree they have also been concerned with the same phases of the whole public works field. A formal union of their strengths will make possible a still more effective organization dedicated to the improvement of the public works service."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Tuesday, December 1

City Planning Broadens

A broadening scope for city planning, far beyond the old idea of the "city beautiful" was indicated at the conference on city planning sponsored recently by the American Society of Planning Officials in Chicago (Nov. 19-20). One hundred and sixty-five representatives of city, county and state planning boards, municipal officials, and others interested in planning attended from 22 states.

Outstanding on the two-day program of discussions was a meeting given over to defining the master plan for the city, and financing it. The master plan is a plan for control of complete community development--not just one aspect of it such as public buildings, or roads and streets. Those at the conference agreed that the program of an adequate master plan should entail land use studies; thoroughfare and traffic plans; housing and replanning blighted areas; real estate subdivision regulations; and recreation provisions. With respect to financing the master plan, some speakers urged that good planning presupposed a program of pay-as-you-go through taxation, and that all city plans should be put on that basis at the earliest possible moment, except for certain large undertakings of a self-liquidating nature, like municipal water works and electric light plants. Others suggested that basically there was no real difference between the pay-as-you-go program and one involving the careful issuance of bonds, so long as the bond issues were based upon a rational program for community development.

Close contact and understanding with the mayor or city manager, and the city council, as well as with the public works and other official departments was stressed as an important factor in the internal relationships of the local plan commission. A mayor and a city manager present at the meeting pointed out that while it was not their duty to "sell" the city plan to the people, as chief municipal officers they could act as interpreters and aid in gaining acceptance for planning activity if they were kept well informed at all times.

External relationships, with county and state planning boards, and with state and national associations of planning officials, were also emphasized as needing continuous attention.

The planners were warned by Mordecai Ezekiel, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, that they should not devote their entire attention to the physical and engineering aspects of city planning, but should also attempt some economic forecasting through local population and industry studies, so that they can make some gauge of future needs. "Every planning commission interested in providing an adequate plan," said Mr. Ezekiel, "must consider more than the physical factors. Any adequate plan includes acknowledgment of economic and social factors as well."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Wednesday, December 2

State Agencies Administering the Taxes

The 48 states follow no uniform plan in administering their taxes, according to the current issue of State Government, official magazine of the Council of State Governments. There are from one to six separate agencies in each of the states administering ten of the important state taxes--inheritance, personal and corporate income, public utilities, sales, motor vehicle license and fuel, tobacco, liquor and severance taxes.

Only seven states give to a single agency the responsibility for administering these taxes. They are: Alabama, Kentucky, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Utah. Pennsylvania has a Superintendent of Revenue; Rhode Island, a Director of Taxation; Kentucky, a Department of Revenue; and North Carolina, a Commissioner of Revenue. In Kentucky, by recent reorganization of the state department, the Commissioner of Revenue heads the Department of Revenue and is also chairman of the State Tax Commission.

While Rhode Island has only one tax-administration agency, Delaware--its companion state in size--has six agencies, or one for each type of tax levied. Nebraska also lists one agency apiece for each of four taxes. Missouri has six tax-administration agencies, in charge of eight kinds of taxes.

According to State Government, the diversity of responsible agencies existing in most of the states "indicates the lack of centralization which often accompanies the taxing function." It is agreed, says the magazine, that "no less than every other administrative system, tax administration should be based on the principle of definite lodgment of responsibility."

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release: Thursday, December 3

Housing Surveys

Analyzing the Housing Shortage

Hue and cry about a housing shortage must present more complete proof than mere tabulation of the empty dwellings if actual housing needs are to be determined, says Coleman Woodbury, executive director of the National Association of Housing Officials. To discover the true state of the housing market, it is necessary to measure how the housing vacancies are changing, in terms of the types of buildings and the rental value of the living units.

"Although the activities of the last few years have educated many people in the need for reliable measures of the housing market," Mr. Woodbury comments, "the available information is still very scattered. Worse still, very little of it is collected periodically. Surveys made for particular developments or programs soon become out-dated on many significant points."

Without doubt, he adds, the abnormal vacancies of the depression have disappeared, and in many cities the ordinary reserve of houses is rapidly being used up. Families that have been living with relatives are "undoubling;" others are seeking larger quarters.

A survey of almost 60,000 apartments in the Chicago area shows a general vacancy of 4.3 per cent, which represents a decrease by almost 2 per cent of last year's figure. In Aurora, Illinois, a manufacturing and railroad city of over 50,000 population on the edge of the Chicago metropolitan area, results of a Real Property Inventory revealed that only 3.5 per cent of the houses were vacant. Residences renting from $30 to $75 and up a month were about 2 per cent vacant; those from $20 to $30, 2.7 per cent; those from $10 to $20, 5.5 per cent; and in the very small class of houses renting for less than $10 a month there was a 10.1 per cent vacancy. A similar survey in Pittsburgh showed a decrease in vacancies of 4 per cent during the past two years, and a demand for housing on the part of renters. There was a 3 per cent decline in owner-occupancy from February, 1934, to June, 1936, whereas tenant occupancy increased by more than 10 per cent. Dayton and Cleveland, O. are among other cities recently checking on their housing situations. Both report current vacancy figures much lower than those prevailing two and three years ago.

General vacancy percentages are useful warnings, Mr. Woodbury adds, but they cover up too many important variations to be really useful in determining the steps necessary to meet developing conditions. Only when the information indicates which economic classes are short of houses, is it possible to plan for how many and for whom to build dwellings.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Friday, December 4

Indiana Provides for College-Trained Detectives

A new development in police education designed to supply college-trained detectives as members of the state police force is taking place in Indiana. The Police Chiefs' News Letter, official bulletin of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, reports that the Indiana State Police and Indiana University have joined their efforts to train recruits specifically for police work as a career.

Expert toxicologists, criminologists, attorneys, physicians, police executives and other authorities have been engaged on the state university faculty to instruct the police students and to aid in making scientific examination of criminal evidence collected by the crime detection bureau of the state police. This bureau has within the past year set up a laboratory equipped with all modern crime detection tools, including a lie-detector, fingerprint identification apparatus, and other aids.

Thirty-two future state policemen enrolled in the course when it was inaugurated in September of this year. All courses required of these prospective police officers are included in a resident four-year college curriculum culminating in the award of the Bachelor of Arts degree. During the first two years special emphasis is placed on the study of chemistry, physics, psychology, sociology, elementary medicine, languages, law, government and military science. In the third year the students concentrate on general police problems and police tactics. Advanced courses are offered in the fourth year in police science, police administration, criminal investigation, criminal law, criminology and police psychiatry. After a health examination and a character check, satisfactory graduates of the four-year course are to be placed on a preferred eligible list for positions on the Indiana State Police force.

Designers of the cooperative set-up anticipate that the intimate daily contact for four years with legal and extra-legal police agents will qualify the students to undertake the work of apprehending criminals, recognizing, gathering and preserving physical evidence and assisting in prosecution. Infiltration into the state police force of these graduate police students, coupled with an extensive use of the state police and university laboratories by all police departments in the state, should serve, they believe, to draw the web of law enforcement more tightly around the law breaker than anything since installation of the police radio.

--THERE IS ANOTHER RELEASE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release: Saturday, December 5

Round Table Conference on Public Welfare

Exchange of information and experience in all branches of public welfare, with special attention to the new provisions of social security, will feature the Round Table Conference sponsored by the American Public Welfare Association in Washington, D.C., on December 12 and 13. Invitations to the conference have been sent out to 3500 members of the Association and to public welfare officials all over the country. Prominent leaders in special fields of welfare and administration will lead the dozen or so panel discussions and round tables on the two-day program.

Scheduled just preceding the first of the year, when many states will swing into their first experience with unemployment compensation plans and old age benefits, and other states will act on proposed welfare legislation, the conference will devote a large part of its time to these problems. Included on the program are: a forum for officials charged with the responsibility for formulating or administering unemployment compensation insurance; a round table discussion for state officials on public assistance legislation; and a panel discussion on state and local public welfare administration. Round table groups are planned on personnel standards and procedure; relations of public welfare to medical care and institutions; financing of public social work; and interstate welfare problems. A final panel discussion will deal with "putting merit into the merit system."

Among chairmen of the conference meetings are: Dr. Leonard D. White, United States Civil Service Commissioner; Harry Greenstein, executive director, Associated Jewish Charities of Baltimore; Louis Brownlow, director, Public Administration Clearing House; R. Gordon Wagenet, director, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation, Social Security Board; Dr. Michael Davis, director of medical services, Julius Rosenwald Fund; Wilfred Reynolds, director, Chicago Council of Social Agencies; William Hodson, commissioner, New York City Department of Public Welfare; William Haber, Michigan state relief administrator.

In announcing the conference, Fred K. Hoehler, director of the American Public Welfare Association, stated: "So far as is possible the members of the conference will not be 'talked at' but can talk with people who, like themselves, must keep informed on the very latest developments in public welfare administration, especially those stimulated by the social security program."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.1: For Mon., Dec. 7

Implications of the Housing Shortage

The impending housing shortage in many sizeable cities of the United States is bringing to the forefront of public attention many aspects of housing hiterto considered only by officials, according to Coleman Woodbury, executive director of the National Association of Housing Officials, which held its third annual conference last Friday and Saturday (Dec. 4-5) in Philadelphia. Rising rents and the gradual trend of low-income tenants into less desirable quarters will intensify this interest, he finds.

The various social and economic aspects of housing shortage will pose an immediate problem for municipalities, he believes, particularly those with low-cost housing programs--a problem which will require for its solution an integrated program among official federal, state and local agencies with private building enterprise.

Stoppage of most demolition work and of other actions which tend to maintain an absolute minimum standard of housing in both new and old buildings is seen by Mr. Woodbury as one of the results of the housing shortage. "Regardless of education, agitation, or good intentions," he says, "unfit housing in considerable quantities won't be torn down or boarded up while there is an acute demand for mere space and some kind of shelter."

Providing acceptable low-rent housing by overbuilding in the more expensive dwelling class and handing down the older accommodations to the poorer families will work even less effectively than normally, in Mr. Woodbury's opinion.

Public housing officials have a responsibility in helping avoid the inadequate panaceas of the 1920 housing shortage, says Mr. Woodbury. With the probable soaring of building material prices and the shortage of skilled building mechanics when the demand for housing becomes acute, he points out, the effects may well be jerry-building, unwise purchases of houses by families seeking what looks like protection from rising rents, and unsound promotional schemes, unless these troubles are anticipated and dealt with.

Although in Mr. Woodbury's opinion few cities know enough about the exact nature and extent of their impending housing shortage to justify a detailed program to combat it, if they address themselves at once to the situations in their communities and make the most of the instruments and facilities they have, he believes they will be able to contribute valuable advice on housing policies.

* * *

Interstate relations

Third General Assembly of Council of State Governments

To Editors: The following release is sent thus far ahead with the thought that you may wish to file it in your future book, or else prepare advance special articles, news stories or editorials. Further information on the Council of State Governments' Assembly is available at this office, and we shall be glad to furnish any advance material on specific questions mentioned at the end of the release. Some of them will be of special timely interest to readers in your locality. Many of these questions come up for legislation in the 42 state legislatures meeting in January.

The Third Bi-ennial General Assembly of the Council of State Governments will convene in a four-day session in Washington, D.C., at the Mayflower Hotel, beginning January 21, 1937, the day following the inauguration of President Roosevelt. The Assembly will deliberate on important problems calling for interstate action by contiguous states, and among the states and the federal government.

Each state in the Union will be entitled to three official votes, cast by representatives of the governor, of the state senate and of its house of representatives. A state, however, may send as many delegates as it wishes.

Official delegates will take action on tangible recommendations, some in the form of model legislation measures, or reciprocal acts and compacts, which have been prepared in the interim since the 1935 Assembly by official interstate commissions working in specialized fields. Representatives of various states preoccupied with regional questions will meet in special sessions.

Among the agencies reporting on various problems of state, regional and national significance will be:

1. Interstate Commission on Conflicting Taxation.
2. Tax Revision Council.
3. Interstate Commission on Crime.
4. Interstate Commission on Social Security.
5. Interstate Commission on the Delaware Basin.
6. American Legislators' Association.
7. National Association of Attorneys General.
8. National Association of Secretaries of State.

All of these general questions will be discussed exhaustively during the separate sections of the Assembly, which in 1935 drew 153 delegates from 41 states. It is expected also that certain state delegations will request special meetings on such questions as oil, tobacco, drought, labor, alcoholic beverages, motor vehicles and civil service.

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.3: For Wed., Dec. 9

Taxation - Exemptions

Homestead Tax Exemptions

Adoption on November 3 of constitutional amendments providing for homestead tax exemption in Arkansas, North Carolina and Utah brings the total number of states allowing this "subsidy" to home-owners to ten, according to a survey made by Robert M. Paige, secretary of the Governmental Research Association.

Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Minnesota, Oklahoma and West Virginia are the other states which allow partial or almost complete homestead tax exemption. In Oklahoma, voters approved an amendment to the constitution last year permitting state legislation exempting homesteads from taxation, and the 1937 session of the legislature is expected to pass a homestead exemption measure.

The Florida amendment, first effective in 1935, provides the most generous homestead exemption--$5,000. Under the federal constitution, however, neither the Florida measure nor any other homestead exemption provision can exempt homesteads from levies necessary to retire debt incurred prior to its enactment.

Louisiana's exemption measure, passed in 1934, authorizes the exemption of homesteads up to the first $2,000 of assessed value, but makes two important exceptions: municipal governments except the city of New Orleans may continue to tax homes, and the amount of the exemption from state and other local government property taxes on any particular year is determined by the money available for replacement purposes in the property tax relief fund. Texas and Mississippi exempt homesteads from state property tax levies only. Minnesota and West Virginia give homesteads a preferential status, subjecting them to a lower rate of taxation than non-homestead property.

All three of the homestead tax exemption measures adopted in November are permissive only and will not become effective until the legislatures of the states have acted. In Arkansas the exemption applies only to the property taxes of the state government. In North Carolina and Utah the exemption will affect local as well as the state governments. The amount of the exemption may be as much as $2500 in Arkansas, $2000 in Utah and $1000 in North Carolina.

"There are apparently many persons who believe that home-ownership should be encouraged by governments, by subsidies if necessary," says Mr. Paige. In his opinion, however, those who favor state subsidies to present and future home-owners should find some other way than tax exemption to grant such subsidies. He points out that tax exemptions are authorized by state governments but in most cases local governments must make up the revenue so lost, and this is much more difficult for some jurisdictions than for others. Furthermore, he adds, "a subsidy in the form of tax exemption to all homes is not closely related to the need of the home-owners; its exact amount cannot be determined because of shifting and capitalization; it is concealed and is not suspected by those who are paying for the exemption in higher taxes; it is continuing, and not subject to periodic review by legislative bodies; and it is questionable whether it is sufficient to have much effect one way or another on future trends in home ownership."

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.4: For Thurs., Dec. 10

[Promotion, State

States Make Public Their Attractions

Stimulating in the American public the desire to travel from state to state for recreation is the job of at least four secretaries of state and a dozen other state-supported bureaus, according to a check made recently by the National Association of Secretaries of State, results of which are announced by the Council of State Governments.

In Massachusetts, Oregon, Rhode Island and Washington the state departments through their secretaries have developed special promotion services to make the recreational advantages of the state known to prospective visitors. Oregon's "Sell Oregon" movement has been a cooperative effort of the Oregon State Motor Association, the press, the travel and information bureau of the State Highway Department, and the secretary of state. Recently the envelopes of all Department of State stationery have been decorated with reproductions of beauty spots in the state. Effectiveness of the campaign is being checked by registering every out-of-state vehicle at the state line. The Rhode Island legislature appropriated $12,000 in time for a campaign to interest summer vacationists this year and inquiries resulted from such distant points as England, Venezuela and Portugal.

Among the other states that maintain information departments are: Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Most of the states began their promotional activity in 1935. Maine spent $30,000 that year and repeated the appropriation this year; New York state made an appropriation of $60,000 in 1935 and renewed the grant this year. New Mexico, which created a State Tourist Bureau as a part of the State Highway Department in 1935, and spent $50,000 to disseminate information, reported a total visit of 2,705,625 tourists, who spent on an average nearly $20 each in the state. This state's appropriation was also repeated for 1936. In 1936 Florida made up a fund totalling $67,000 for the governor's All-Florida committee. Texas put up half a million for the 1936 Centennial.

Other states, among them California, are expected to present proposals for state promotion campaigns in their 1937 legislative sessions.

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.5: For Fri., Dec. 11

National Survey of Prison-Release Procedures

Police chiefs, judges, officials of correctional institutions and probation and parole officers in the 48 states who are cooperating on a nation-wide survey of parole and other release procedures under the direction of U.S. Attorney General Homer S. Cummings, will see their consolidated report made public by July, 1937, according to the Police Chiefs' News Letter, official bulletin of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The survey was begun over a year ago, utilizing as recorders of information specially trained WPA employees working under an executive committee and regional supervisors. Its purpose is to give a broad view of the whole field of prison release procedure, parole, pardon, probation, etc., with the objective of laying the foundations for improved techniques in the imprisonment and eventual rehabilitation of convicts through legislation and administration.

Before beginning the study of the release procedures of any particular state, the consent of state authorities was secured, and their advice and cooperation solicited. To date 45 states have come under the survey. The investigation is not limited to parole alone, the Police Chiefs' News Letter explains, since the word "parole" itself has a variety of meanings. In some jurisdictions it refers to the release of a prisoner by governors or other executives, and is almost indistinguishable from pardon and executive clemency; in other jurisdictions it means the release of prisoners by the trial judge under conditions approximating probation; and in still others, the release of a prisoner after investigation of his past record and estimate of his probable success in rehabilitation under the custody of a supervising parole officer. Matters of law, personnel, administration, equipment, purpose and methods of all those charged with responsibility for such persons, either through court or penal institutions, are being carefully scrutinized by the investigators.

(MORE)

The Attorney General's survey is not intended to reveal a set formula or technique for administering parole and solving its related problems, according to the Police Chiefs' News Letter. It will cite the methods of record-keeping employed by the most highly developed institutions and administrative agencies, and present all available information for the interpretation of such success as they have achieved. It will make clear the inadequacies of many existing practices and shed light upon systems, or lack of systems, which have tended to bring criticism to certain aspects of parole procedure.

The final report is expected to discover whether facts about prison-release can be deduced from the maze of complicated regulations in the various governmental jurisdictions; and to determine, once the facts are made available, whether public opinion will encourage and support those procedures that have proved successful, and enforce drastic reforms in those jurisdictions where parole and other forms of release have failed.

The News Letter quotes this recent remark of Attorney General Cummings: "A proper understanding of the nature and purpose of probation and parole would remove many objections to their use. Still more convincing would be their administration. Not alone the general public, but...many officials have assumed that these procedures are forms of clemency. They should not be so regarded or so applied. Considered not merely as a method of rehabilitation, but, in each case, as a method of punishment administered in such manner as actually to supervise, discipline and control the offender, probation and parole would cease to be looked upon as a way of defeating the efforts of police and prosecutors, and would achieve a recognized position as important as imprisonment and other forms of penal treatment."

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.6: For Sat., Dec. 12

The Merit System--A Saving to Local Governments

Can local governments afford to go without the services of competent personnel technicians to hire, classify and train their employees? Not if they follow sound business tactics, according to a check made by the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada comparing total expenditures of half a dozen cities with the amounts spent on wages and salaries of employees.

The average expenditure for employee services made by these cities was approximately 62 per cent of their entire annual budgets for municipal services. In Saginaw, Mich., the figure was 52.7 per cent; in Ft. Worth, Tex., and Los Angeles, it was 59 per cent; in Dallas, 60 per cent; and in Cincinnati, 63.39 per cent.

For Fort Wayne, Ind. it was recently found that 78 per cent of the whole budget is applied to the wages and salaries of city employees. In the case of the public schools, 87 per cent of the annual appropriation goes for this purpose, while new equipment and fixed charges amount to about $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and coal and fuel to heat the buildings, to 10 per cent. Other departments of the government--public health, public safety, public works and finance--spend approximately 80 per cent of their money for employee services.

Since salaries and wages for employee services make up such a large percentage of city government costs, points out G. Lyle Belsley, executive director of the Civil Service Assembly, it is obviously to the financial advantage of cities to install a merit system. A sound merit system utilizes all the principles of the most efficiently run businesses. It advertises widely to secure the best applicants for positions. It employs the best qualified man for the job, regardless of whether he is a 'home town boy,' and gives him special retraining courses on the job. It rewards the successful and best employees through pay raises and promotions and eliminates the unfit and weak through carefully analyzed service ratings. Through adequate, actuarially sound pension plans it insures the security of the employee so that he is content to give all his service to the city.

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release No.1: For Mon., Dec.14

Training

Toward Competent Government

The problem of obtaining more competent government service through better trained personnel is discussed in a report made public today jointly by the American Municipal Association, the International City Managers' Association and the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada. Group thinking on this question has been quickened by passage of the George-Deen Act, which enlarges the scope of vocational education to include public service occupations, according to the report.

If congressional action is taken to finance in-service training of public employees under the trade and industrial occupations, as authorized in the George-Deen Act, legislatures of many states which convene in January will be faced with passing on proposals that will enable their states to participate in the federal grants.

Training employees in the public service before and after they take their jobs has been the task of many scattered agencies, including schools and colleges, for several years. The report, which reviews present methods of training public employees, proposes that the various efforts toward in-service training be integrated and future developments carefully planned, so that the best results may be obtained from the new financial support made possible by the George-Deen Act.

Training of public employees is necessary, the report points out, since today governmental functions are so technical that they require special competence for their successful performance.

As preparation for public employment, more than 80 colleges and universities now offer a general undergraduate course in public administration. Thirty-eight of them have initiated such a course within the past five years. At present, however, pre-entry training for the public service is restricted to a number of general courses in public administration and to specific training for teachers, nurses, librarians, and a few other occupations.

(MORE)

Training for employees on the job, on the other hand, is offered by at least 39 educational institutions and by 4 other types of agencies: governmental units themselves; organizations of governmental units, such as state leagues of municipalities; professional organizations of public officials; and federal and state vocational agencies. In the federal government, 24 agencies were offering in-service training for employees in 1935 and had several thousand employees enrolled. State governments have most frequently designed their training programs for special classes of employees, such as state police officers. In-service training by cities most frequently appears in police and fire departments, and the intensity and frequency of training is restricted by available funds. Federal and state vocational agencies have conducted fire training programs. Professional organizations of public officials, such as the National Recreation Association and the International City Managers' Association, have reached members of their professions with institutes or extension courses. Nineteen state leagues of municipalities within the last five years have conducted training schools that reached 65,000 public employees.

Existing in-service training facilities have certain defects and limitations, according to the report, which points out that a relatively small proportion of public employees in the United States has been reached. Even in the training courses sponsored by state leagues of municipalities, which have undertaken the greatest amount of public service training, the largest total annual enrollment is less than 15,000. Other limitations mentioned in the report are: a general lack of properly prepared curricula, and absence of an adequate central agency for exchanging information or obtaining consultation on in-service training.

To forward systematic development of in-service training, now that its expansion and extension have been made possible, the report advises that training programs within particular states be integrated, but that no effort be made to standardize a training program for all states, since conditions vary. Early efforts might well be restricted to a few public service occupations, it is advised, with the possibility of future establishment of a central clearing house of training information and experience among interested agencies.

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release No.2: For Tues., Dec 15

Housing

States to Consider Housing In January

Edward H. Foley, jr., director, Legal Division, Public Works Administration, speaking at the recent conference (Dec.4-5) of the National Association of Housing Officials at Philadelphia, made the important announcement that the P.W.A. is about to turn over to state and local housing authorities the responsibility of initiating, constructing and operating low-rent housing projects, with P.W.A. furnishing financial and technical assistance.

Of the forty-two states whose legislatures meet in January, many will face the necessity for some sort of housing authority legislation to administer such local control, if this predicted federal trend takes place, according to Coleman Woodbury, director of the Association.

Mr. Foley's remarks seemed to bear out this view. "Now," he said, the Public Works Administration is about to decentralize public housing .... In many respects this marks a reversal of trend which grew pronounced during the depression. This trend, of course, was the tendency of state and cities to ask the federal government to assume certain of their functions, chiefly those in connection with relief and public welfare.

"How much further beyond housing this return of responsibilities will go, I am not competent to say, but certainly the direction in which this significant movement is headed is proof enough that functions which properly can be handled by the states and localities will, in the course of events, be handled locally .... Public housing, now almost an exclusive federal function, is about to become a matter of local responsibility ....

"The legislature of practically every state will meet in regular session next month. Although in 1934, housing legislation was suggested to all the governors, less than half the states now have housing authority legislation, and even fewer have

(MORE)

legislation for co-operation between housing authorities and municipalities."

Since 1934, twenty states have enacted housing legislation, research done by the N.A.H.O shows. The only state law for local housing authorities in 1936 was passed in Louisiana. The California legislature passed a housing authority law last year but it was vetoed by the governor. Other states which also have unsuccessfully sought housing authority laws in 1935 and 1936 are: Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah and Virginia.

Perhaps the most significant measure presented during this period was in Massachusetts. It would authorize a city or town to borrow on its bonds or notes an amount not exceeding one-fifth of one per cent of its assessed valuation, to be used by the local housing authority in leasing or buying a federal project of its own. The revised form of the bill added three conditions to the exercise of borrowing power by a city or town:

1. That the federal government make a grant to the locality of not less than 25 per cent of the cost of the project in question.

2. That the local funds be required as a condition precedent to the federal grant.

3. That the amount of local funds raised under the proposed legislation should not exceed the annual amount by which the cost of public services in the area of the developments exceeds taxes, capitalized at 4 per cent.

The legislature adjourned without taking action on this revised bill.

Mr. Foley, presenting the federal viewpoint at the Philadelphia conference, also touched on the fifty P.W.A. projects over the country which will soon be completed. "Enactment by states of housing authority and housing corporation laws," he said, "offers not only the answer to the problem of undertaking low-rent housing projects but also the problem of what should be done with these fifty projects. Of course, P.W.A. can and will operate these projects as long as may be necessary, but it is my belief that under appropriate federal and state legislation, these projects should be leased or sold to local housing authorities as soon as possible. It is also my belief that in the future all low-rent housing projects should in general be undertaken by local housing authorities on a loan and grant basis.

"Before the federal government turns over its housing porjects to local authorities, it must be satisfied that the local authority will rent the dwellings only to families of low income. To accomplish this purpose, P.W.A. is suggesting that housing authority's laws contain provisions with respect to tenancy similar to those contained in the George-Healey act."

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.3: For Wed., Dec. 16

Civil Service Employees Consider Cooperative Housing

Civil service employees in several cities, including New York, Washington and Madison, Wis., have drafted programs for cooperative housing to obtain low-cost living quarters, according to the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada.

In New York, federal, state and city employees have organized the Cooperative Housing Association of Civil Service Employees. In Washington, an employee association has been making a study of construction materials, sources of architectural plans and approved financing methods, as well as planning for cooperative housing projects. The Madison plan for cooperative housing was begun in 1935, and the Wisconsin State Employees' Association reports that the idea has grown greatly in popularity.

City, state and federal employees will have an opportunity to participate in the plan mapped in New York. As outlined recently to department heads, it is proposed to construct cooperatively owned apartment houses to rent for $11 a room. Construction of the apartment buildings would be undertaken by separate corporations, formed by approximately 300 persons each, willing to invest funds in the project. The investment, it is estimated, would be about $250 a room, and it is planned to provide three- to five-room apartments. Only those civil service employees with family incomes under $4,000 will be permitted to participate. Subscribers to the organization would buy shares of stock, but title to any property purchased for housing would rest in the corporation. In order to repurchase the shares of tenants sent to out-of-town jobs or desiring to give up their apartments, it is proposed to set aside a special sinking fund.

A Rent and Housing Committee was organized in Washington last year to aid civil service employees in securing suitable living quarters at low cost. It is now preparing contracts for homes in housing developments in and near the city.

The Wisconsin State Employees' Association's committee on housing has incorporated under the Wisconsin Cooperative Law and is about to purchase a building site in Madison for the proposed housing project for state civil service employees.

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No. 4: For Thurs., Dec. 17

State Legislatures and Uniform Crime Laws

Forty-two state legislatures convening in January will confront at the outset many laws in the widespread campaign against "commuting criminals," according to Judge Richard Hartshorne, chairman of the Interstate Commission on Crime. In all these states except New York and New Jersey uniform acts are expected to be introduced dealing with such varied subjects as fresh pursuit of criminals, supervision of out-of-state parolees, criminal extradition and attendance at trials of out-of-state witnesses. New York and New Jersey have approved all four of these uniform acts; in some of the other states one or two of them have been adopted.

While legislators prepare for action in the new movement to coordinate governmental agencies in the fight against crime, special committees of the Interstate Commission on Crime will be drafting further action on other problems, such as crime prevention measures, motor vehicle identification, and the use of moving pictures in criminal identification. Their recommendations will be submitted to official delegates at the Third General Assembly of the Council of State Governments when it meets in Washington, D.C., January 21-24, following President Roosevelt's inauguration. The Interstate Commission on Crime is an affiliate of the Council of State Governments.

All four of the uniform acts that will be introduced to state legislatures next year have been drafted by the Interstate Commission on Crime, aided by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, and by professors of criminal and constitutional law throughout the country. The Interstate Commission on Crime has one commissioner from each state and one from the federal government. States having Commissions on Interstate Cooperation appoint one commissioner. In other states they are appointed by the governor. U.S. Attorney General Cummings has appointed Dean Justin Miller as the federal representative.

The purpose of the uniform act on fresh pursuit of criminals is to prevent state lines from handicapping police in the apprehension of criminals. The act proposes that when a police officer is in fresh pursuit of a criminal, the moment he crosses a state line, the state he enters will authorize him to arrest the criminal within its bounds. The proposed uniform act for the supervision of out-out-of-state parolees, which is reciprocal in character, authorizes the states adopting it to enter into compacts whereby under certain circumstances each agrees to supervise parolees from the other. The extradition act facilitates the transfer of criminals from one state to another, so that one state may not become, unintentionally, a sanctuary for criminals who commit crimes in neighboring states. The act on attendance of out-of-state witnesses provides a procedure to enforce their attendance at criminal proceedings when the prosecution needs their testimony, at the same time protecting their rights as citizens.

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.5: For Fri., Dec. 18

Real property

American Cities Need a Land Policy

One of the most pressing needs of American cities is a well-defined land policy, according to Walter H. Blucher, executive director, American Society of Planning Officials. He finds the opportunity ripe for cities to draft a land policy in the shape of holdings against future needs for parks, playgrounds, housing developments and other public purposes, which will be of benefit to the entire community.

Among interesting recent actions in the effort to develop a land policy are those at Yonkers, N.Y., and Milwaukee, Wis. These two cities are basing their programs on the large areas of tax delinquent land within their borders. Mr. Blucher reports that the Yonkers Planning Board is advocating a policy of foreclosure of city-owned tax liens on vacant land, with a view to obtaining badly needed playground, park and school sites, and also property suitable for resale by the city for private or industrial use. Milwaukee has provided parking areas in the central business district from land on which taxes have gone unpaid.

"At present," says Mr. Blucher, "very few cities have any kind of land policy. They usually own about a third of all developed land within the municipal boundaries, which is dedicated to public use for the street system. Frequently they have large park spaces. Future needs, however, will in most cases include land for extending streets into newly platted areas and for new schools, utility plants and many other uses, including low-cost housing. Under their present practice the cities can obtain this land by purchase, by condemnation or by gift. When they obtain land through direct purchase, they almost invariably pay exorbitant prices for it. Condemnation procedure is generally considered unscientific and inequitable and results in delays and high costs as well. Gifts cannot be depended upon."

Many European cities, Mr. Blucher points out, have protected citizens against high speculative land prices by frankly purchasing or acquiring in other ways reserves of land and developing the land or permitting it to be developed according to community needs. Cities in Holland, Sweden and Germany in particular have been very successful in building up land reserves at low cost to the municipality. The city's policy is based on the fact that the land acquired generally benefits the entire body of the citizens, whereas paying a speculative price for it would benefit a few at the cost of the community.

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.6: For Sat., Dec.19

Public Officials Study Jobs

One hundred public officials whose titles range all the way from city manager to librarian have thought it important enough to learn something more about their own jobs and the problems of their associates to do some "home work" on the subject. From twenty-five states this number of officials has enrolled in the correspondence courses offered by the Institute for Training in Municipal Administration sponsored by the International City Managers' Association.

The Institute, which made its first course available less than two years ago, now offers instruction in four subjects: organization and functions of municipal government; municipal public works administration; municipal personnel administration; and municipal fire administration. Prepared especially for city managers, the courses have drawn enrollment from city planners, personnel officers, librarians, police chiefs, school teachers, fire department officers, finance officers, city clerks and others interested in governmental administration.

The largest number of students is enrolled from the state of Michigan, which has 15 public officials taking the courses. Texas has 11; New York, 10, New Jersey, 9, and Illinois, 8. The public works director of Rio de Janeiro is taking the public works administration course, and the former assistant to the mayor of Havana is enrolled.

Teaneck, N.J., city of 16,000, set an example by enrolling itself in each of the four courses now available, in the name of the city manager, the assistant city manager, the fire chief, and the public works director. Two employeees of Winnetka, Ill.,have paid their tuition for courses, and have the assurance of the village that they will be reimbursed for the expense when they have satisfactorily completed the work.

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.1: For Mon., Dec.21

P.A.C.H.
LIBRARY

States Call Job Insurance Sessions

Five states -- Iowa, Michigan, South Dakota, Tennessee and Vermont, -- meet today (Dec. 21) in special session to consider the momentous problem of unemployment insurance legislation to enable them to participate in this part of the huge Federal Social Security program, which starts January 1.

Rush action is under way in many other states because of the January 1 deadline set in the Social Security Act, requiring enabling legislation if a state is to participate in the 1936 payroll tax provisions of the national program.

Five states -- Maine, Minnesota, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia -- have just met in extraordinary session for the same purpose, according to information gathered by the American Public Welfare Association. In January, 42 states will gather in regular session and one of their first legislative deliberations will be to implement their unemployment insurance programs as well as to consider the other provisions of social security.

Meantime, in New York, those employers who lost their case against the constitutionality of the New York Unemployment Insurance law in a decision handed down three weeks ago by the United States Supreme Court, have asked for a rehearing and reargument of the case, the Social Security Board reports. New York's Attorney-General John J. Bennett announced: "We will file briefs and do everything we can to oppose it."

With the recently adopted laws on jobless insurance in Connecticut and Pennsylvania meeting the requirements of Article IX of the Social Security Act, twenty-five states have passed the necessary legislation, the A.P.W.A. round-up shows. The latest states passing such laws are: Arizona, Maryland, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio and Oklahoma. Others which already have acted include: Alabama, California, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and

(MORE)

the District of Columbia.

In many of these states the unemployment compensation statutes have been in force for some time.

Connecticut also has started to set up machinery for operation of its unemployment insurance law. It is announced from that state that a bureau of personnel of three will examine applicants for administrative positions in the unemployment compensation bureau, with the exception of those for the position of executive director. It is believed that fifteen will be hired first, with eventually 200 persons being employed for this purpose.

Connecticut, like Pennsylvania, uses the "pooled-fund" type of laws, although the former also stipulates separate employer accounts, for merit rating only. Merit-rating means that an employer's contributions are to be measured by his record for stabilized employment.

Neither Connecticut nor Pennsylvania made provision in their acts for payment of contributions by employees. Rates fixed for employer contribution are: 0.9 per cent of payrolls for 1936; 1.8 per cent for 1937, and 2.7 per cent for 1938, 1939 and 1940. The Connecticut law provides for introduction of the merit-rating system after 1940.

Benefits payments in Pennsylvania will reach 50 per cent of the employes' full-time weekly wage; in Connecticut four per cent of the total wages earned in the calendar quarter of highest earnings among the most recently completed four quarters. Maximum benefits in both cases are $15, the minimum, $7.50.

Connecticut has designated the Unemployment Compensation Commission as its administrative agency. Pennsylvania puts administration under the Department of Labor and Industry, personnel to be appointed by that agency's secretary, under civil service provisions.

Arizona's unemployment insurance law has been signed, empowering that state, if its law is approved by the Social Security Board, to keep 90 per cent of the Federal tax under Title IX of the national act. The law becomes effective on February 23, 1937.

Maryland has passed its law, after the Senate had rejected amendments which would have levied a payroll tax of .9 per cent for 1936, 1.8 for 1937 and 2.7 per cent thereafter on employers of eight or more workers.

The Social Security Board's announcement of approval of the jobless compensation laws passed in Connecticut and Pennsylvania brought the total of workers covered to nearly 12,000,000. This estimate includes workers in the first nineteen states mentioned in the board's report. Connecticut's law will cover 396,000 employees; Pennsylvania about 2,000,000.

Moves in Arkansas to convene the legislature in special session to consider this question and other public assistance legislation have been thus far unsuccessful. The regular session in Arkansas meets January 11.

* * *

Connecticut, like Pennsylvania, uses the "pooled-fund" type of law, with an
itemized plan stipulating separate employer accounts. For a first ruling, rates
may be used as an employer's contributions are to be measured by his own ex-
ual employment.

Neither Connecticut nor Pennsylvania made provision in their acts for wage at
tributions by employees. Rates fixed for employer contributions are: 0.9 per cent
profile for 1936; 1.8 per cent for 1937, and 2.7 per cent for 1938, 1939, and 1940.
Connecticut law provides for introduction of the merit-rating system after 3
.

Benefits payments in Pennsylvania will range 50 per cent of the employee's full-
"early wage"; in Connecticut four per cent of the total wages earned in the
ender quarter of highest earnings among the most recently completed four quarters.
imum benefits in both cases are $15, the minimum, $7.50.

Connecticut has designated the Unemployment Compensation Commission as the
inistrative agency. Pennsylvania puts administration under the Department of
bor and Industry, permanent to be appointed by that agency's secretary, under
il service provisions.

Arizona's unemployment insurance law has been signed, empowering that state, if
law is approved by the Social Security Board, to levy 2.7 per cent of the Federal
under Title IX of the national act. The law becomes effective on February 15,
7.

Maryland has passed its law, after the Senate had rejected amendments which
have levied a payroll tax of .9 per cent for 1936, 1.8 for 1937 and 2.7 per
thereafter on employers of eight or more workers.

The Social Security Board's announcement of approval of the Indiana unemployment
passed in Connecticut and Pennsylvania brought the total of workers covered to
y 12,000,000. This estimate includes workers in the first nineteen states
in the board's report. Connecticut's law will cover 396,000 employees;
ia about 2,000,000.

In Arkansas to convene the legislature in special session to consider this
and other public assistance legislation have been thus far unsuccessful.

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.2: For Tues., Dec. 22

Supervising Tax Assessment

Most authorities on assessment practice hold the belief that the state tax commission should possess supervisory jurisdiction over local assessors, whether city or county, according to Albert W. Noonan, Technical Director of the National Association of Assessing Officers. It is further maintained that the supervision, so far as possible shall be directed along cooperative lines, rather than be a "big stick" affair.

With few exceptions, most state tax commissions do have some degree of supervisory jurisdiction. The cooperation note, however, is not struck in all of these. In some states, cooperation is thrust upon tax officials, others may engage in it or not at their discretion, and still others find that cooperation is most noticeable by its absence.

Information compiled by the Association shows that in twenty-three states, the tax commission is periodically required to call a state meeting of assessing officers at which the tax commissioners discuss problems with local assessors and issue recommendations. Annual meetings are required in fourteen of these states, while in the others, they are set at suitable intervals.

The assessor must be present or have an acceptable excuse for absence in at least eleven states. In Kentucky, for instance, he may be removed from office for deliberate failure to attend meetings.

In eight states, meetings are held at the option of the commission, but the assessors may be required to attend.

In twenty of the states where meetings are either mandatory or optional, special statutory provision is made for the payment of local assessors' traveling expenses. In most cases, this is paid by the county or city, but in several instances, the state shares in the expense.

Seventeen states do not specifically provide even for occasional meetings between the tax commission and local assessors. However, in several of these states the tax commission on its own initiative arranges such conferences. Connecticut and Massachusetts are good examples of this procedure.

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.3: For Wed., Dec.23

12

Citizen Cooperation in Re-Zoning

Need for voluntary cooperation of property owners to make city land zoning and rehabilitation of blighted areas effective is emphasized by Walter Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials, in connection with current attempts of some cities to modernize their zoning ordinances. "Private property owners can be very helpful in instigating action for re-zoning," Mr. Blucher says, "although they should leave the decision on how it should be done with the city's zoning or planning commission."

Mr. Blucher cites the recent agreement of New York property owners in a 146-block section of Manhattan to have rezoned for residence and other use an area that has been overzoned for commercial purposes or zoned as unrestricted. Owners of 1,395 parcels of property in the area have signed petitions approving the rezoning plan, made after a two-year study by the Regional Plan Association, which increases zoned land for residential use to 22 per cent of the total area, instead of 6 per cent as at present, and decreases the amount of unrestricted land. Without the cooperation displayed by these property owners, Mr. Blucher points out, this particular section of the city would be unable to take even the first step toward redefining its land needs for business, industrial and residence purposes which have changed greatly since the original zoning ordinance was drafted.

Many cities are revising their zoning ordinances to fit present needs, Mr. Blucher points out. Portland, Oregon, for example, over a year ago made large-scale changes in its zoning plan. The City Planning Commission of Providence, R.I., has recommended similar action.

"Many, if not the majority of the 1200-odd zoning ordinances now in use in the United States no longer serve the purposes for which they were intended," says Mr. Blucher. "Almost without exception, they provide too great a quantity of commercial and industrial property and far too intensive a use of residential property. Much of the so-called zoning was arbitrarily arrived at and bears no relation to those needs and special problems, which are peculiar to each city and are ever-changing. False zoning has hindered many cities by holding out promises which would never have been made had the facts been known. Excessive zoning for business, for example, has encouraged some owners to convert residential property prematurely. Neglected properties on the fringes of such areas become blighted, and land is purchased or held for speculative purposes which are doomed at the outset."

Wherever rezoning is done, Mr. Blucher points out, "some property owners are bound to be disappointed in having their land designated for a use they feel will bring a lower price than the value they would place on it. It is necessary for them to realize, however, that if they "hold out" to block the whole scheme, they are doing themselves more harm than good, since the whole community suffers thereby."

* * *

of the American Society of Planning Officials, in connection with current attempts of some cities to modernize their zoning ordinances. "Private property can be very helpful in instigating action for re-zoning," Mr. Bluemer says,

Mr. Bluemer cites the recent agreement of New York property owners in a [illegible] section of Manhattan to have rezoned for residence and other uses a tract [illegible] been overzoned for commercial purposes or zoned as unrestricted. Owners of [illegible], 000 parcels of property in the area have signed petitions approving the rezoning [illegible], made after a two-year study by the Regional Plan Association, which [illegible] zoned land for residential use to 25 per cent of the total area, instead of 6 per cent as at present, and decreases the amount of unrestricted land [illegible] the cooperation displayed by these property owners. Mr. Bluemer points out, this [illegible] portion of the city would be unable to take even the first step toward [illegible] its land needs for business, industrial and really use its [illegible] have changed greatly since the original zoning ordinance was [illegible].

Many cities are revising their zoning ordinances to fit present needs, Mr. Bluemer points out. Portland, Oregon, for example, over a year ago made [illegible] changes in its zoning plan. The City Planning Commission of Providence, R.I., re[illegible]

"Many, if not the majority of the 1920-and zoning ordinances now in use in [illegible] ited States no longer serve the purposes for which they were intended," says Mr. [illegible] d industrial property and far too intensive a use of residential property. Much [illegible] the so-called zoning was arbitrarily arrived at and bears no relation to those [illegible] ness and special problems, which are peculiar to each city and re-over-changing. [illegible] ze zoning has hindered many cities by holding out promises which would never [illegible] have been made had the facts been known. Excessive zoning for business, for example, has encouraged some owners to convert residential property prematurely. Neglected properties on the fringes of such areas become blighted, and land is [illegible] ased or held for speculative purposes which are doomed at the outset."

Wherever rezoning is done, Mr. Bluemer points out, "some property owners are [illegible] to be dispossessed in having their land designated for a use they feel will [illegible] a lower price than the value they would place on it. It is necessary for them [illegible] realize, however, that if they "hold out" to block the wants scheme, they are [illegible] g themselves more harm than good, since the whole community suffers thereby."

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.4: For Thurs.,Dec.24

Three-Way Cooperation on Employee Training

Three-way cooperation of the University of Michigan, the Michigan Municipal League and the State Board of Vocational Education will provide a new means of in-service training for municipal officials of that state, according to Public Management, magazine of the International City Managers' Association.

Under a program inaugurated by the University of Michigan on December 1, it is expected that faculty men who are specialized in governmental fields will be transported to municipal officials instead of having the officials come to the university for instruction, as has been customary in in-service training courses. Regional meetings, short courses, institutes and zone conferences which the University will sponsor will be sounded out as possible methods for the future of giving city officials and employees the experience of professional workers and experts in their particular fields--police, assessing, finance, building inspection, etc. Later, it is planned to broaden this training program into an apprenticeship system for those who desire to enter the public service.

General purpose of the new program is to explore the field of training as it may be applied to employees throughout the public service in Michigan governments. The three-way cooperation, utilizing the state university and the state league of municipalities, as well as the State Board for Vocational Education, follows the recommendation of the training report just issued by the American Municipal Association, that all facilities within a state for instructing public service employees on their jobs be integrated. The Michigan plan, according to Harold D. Smith, director of the Michigan Municipal League, is a preparation for state-wide employee training designed to implement the features of the recently enacted George-Deen Act, which authorizes earmarking of vocational education funds for public service occupational training.

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.5: For Fri., Dec. 25

Cost Accounting to Account for Public Works' Cost

The value of a comprehensive cost accounting system to the municipal public works director, who is responsible for providing vital community services in the most efficient and effective manner, is stressed by Frank W. Herring, editor of the Public Works Engineers' News Letter, which is issued jointly by the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials. This fact is especially clear at budget-making time, Mr. Herring finds, when the public works director is most aware of the difficulties of working in the dark--not knowing how much public works operations are costing, or how their costs compare with those of other cities.

Answers to these questions can only be obtained from good cost systems, says Mr. Herring, who points out that there are extremely few cost data available on municipal public works operations, "to say nothing of data capable of comparing from city to city."

Good cost systems embody three fundamental items, he explains. "First, costs are computed in terms of units of accomplishment. For example, they show how much it costs to resurface a square yard of asphalt pavement. Second, they are for operations still being carried on. From them the administrator can determine whether the work is running under or over his work-program estimates. Only in this way can he appraise operations efficiency, without an undue amount of time-consuming, personal job supervision. The cost of carrying on some operation, made known half a year after the operation has been completed may be good material for an annual report, but is of little help in controlling operating methods. And finally, costs are reported on a uniform basis. This means that a given operation has its costs broken down always into the same units, which include all of the cost elements."

A standardization of these elements from city to city would allow costs on similar projects to be compared and more efficient methods recognized, Mr. Herring comments. "Not until unit cost figures, reported currently and on a uniform basis, are widely available can efficiency and economy in public works operations be raised to a maximum," he added.

* * *

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release No.6: For Sat., Dec. 26

Cincinnati Regulates Juvenile Tradesman

Newsboys, bootblacks and other juvenile street tradesmen in Cincinnati are protected for their own good through a unique regulatory system now being perfected by the city's Department of Public Welfare, according to Public Management, official magazine of the International City Managers' Association.

Each company hiring boys who come under the municipal child labor ordinance submits a personnel list at the beginning of each year to the Juvenile Street Trades Section of the public welfare department. One section of this division works with the board of education and passes on the eligibility of the child. The test includes a physical examination, survey of scholastic records and proof of age. The enforcement agency is located in the city hall.

Enforcement of the ordinance differs in procedure from usual policing methods in that a case-work approach is used, enlisting the cooperation of the companies hiring street traders, the welfare agencies in the city and the Board of Education. Reports of non-observance come through visiting teachers, truant officers, school principals, social workers and individuals interested in juveniles. Investigators of the Department of Public Welfare also help keep check. All violations are taken up immediately with the boys' employer. If the violation is repeated, the parents and the boy are contacted, and if it is again repeated, he is blacklisted for future employment. If any violations are directly traced to the home, however, and it is found that a parent is forcing the child to sell in the evening in the prohibited district while under age, without permit, the welfare department clears the complaint with the private social agencies, and it is corrected. In several cases boys have been taken from undersirable homes and placed in foster homes, and parents have been turned over to the Humane Society for censure and supervision.

The close contact with social agencies has made it possible to obtain vacations, clothing and club memberships for many of the street traders, according to the magazine.

* * *

over to the Humane Society for censure and supervision.

close contact with social agencies has made it possible to obtain vacations

with the private social agencies, and it is corrected. In several cases boys have

the boy are contacted, and if it is again repeated, he is blacklisted for future

immediately with the boys' employer. If the violation is repeated, the parents and

Department of Public Welfare also help keep check. All violations are taken up

social workers and individuals interested in juveniles. Investigators of the

of non-observance come through visiting teachers, truant officers, school principals,

street trustees, the welfare agencies in the city and the Board of Education. Reports

that a case-work approach is used, facilitating the cooperation of the companies hiring

enforcement agency is located in the city hall.

Enforcement of the ordinance differs in procedure from usual policing methods in

a physical examination, survey of scholastic records and proof of age. The

tion of the public welfare department. One section of this division works with

to a personnel list at the beginning of each year to the Juvenile Street Trades

, bootblacks and other juvenile street tradesmen in Cincinnati are

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois

1936
Release no.1: For Mon., Dec.28

17 States Face Job Insurance Deadline

As the December 31 deadline inexorably nears, seventeen states have neither passed laws nor set special sessions to enact so they can take part in the unemployment insurance provisions of the federal - state social security program, a round-up by the American Public Welfare Association shows. These states, unless Congress, when it meets in January, extends the time limit, will not receive their share of the 1936 payroll tax on their own employers as provided in the national security act.

This act stipulates that an employer will be credited up to 90 per cent of the one per cent levied on his 1936 payroll for any amount he had contributed to an unemployment insurance fund under a state law. John G. Winant, chairman of the Social Security Board, has declared that the board will not recommend extension of the time limit to permit delinquent states to act.

Much editorial and public comment has resulted in recent days. Those favoring no extension have been to the effect that "the laudable part of a firm stand against extension is not that it may enrich the federal treasury by some $150,000,000, but that it is an example of resistance to pressure groups in the administration of social security." Typical comment on the other side finds a case for the extension from the economy standpoint, in that "the federal government ought not to make a profit out of social insurance."

Other dispassionate opinion fears that arguments of unconstitutionality of the act would be used against it if Congress were to allow the extension, since Article IX might come to be construed as being in essence coercive.

The argument that legislation passed in haste by special sessions would not prove satisfactory appears often, A.P.H.A. researchers find. This argument was discussed in Michigan, and Minnesota, confident that Congress would make provision

(MORE)

for states without job insurance laws, did not at first call an extra session. However, each of these states finally met within the last few days for such enactment. Delaware has called a last-minute extra session which meets today (Dec. 28).

Governor Leslie A. Miller of Wyoming, also foresaw an extension and early in December said he considered a special session a wasteful and useless gesture. With a small industrial population, Wyoming stands to lose much less in payroll taxes than other states which have been unwilling to take a chance on Congressional extension of the December 31 deadline.

In Arkansas, warnings have appeared in the press about the loss that state faced, but as the time limit drew nearer, no special session had been called.

Comment gleaned from some of the non-legislating states seems to indicate that they expect their congressional delegations to seek joint support for an amendment to the national act which would extend the time limit.

Governor Holt of Montana said he considered a special session useless unless it appeared essential to protect the state's interest. He characterized Senator Joseph T. Robinson's remark about the possibility of revision of the Social Security Act to allow time for delinquent states, as "common sense."

A quote from North Carolina: "Congress fixed the deadline; it can just as easily unfix it." North Carolina, however, has passed its legislation.

If Congress does not extend the deadline, as several of these officials expect, a number of states stand to lose considerable amounts from the rebate on the payroll tax. Illinois, which has not acted, would lose perhaps the most, because of its heavy industrialization. In Arkansas, at the other end of the scale, the state legislature does not meet in regular session until January 11. The state's participation under the payroll tax plan was estimated at $900,000, which will be in doubt unless a special session happens to be called within the next few days.

Tennessee, by enacting its unemployment compensation insurance law in a special session opening Dec. 16, figures that it saved itself $2,600,000. Vermont met recently to preserve "for its workers" an estimated $400,000 in payroll taxes.

Certain constitutional difficulties are faced in a few states--difficulties which may necessitate amendments. In Missouri, for instance, Attorney-General Roy McKittrick says that he believes a constitutional amendment is necessary before Missouri could share fully in the social security program. The state, he said, confronts a constitutional conflict in the provision calling for payment of payroll taxes by the state into the United States Treasury. A committee has been at work on a report which will specify needed constitutional changes.

Some agencies in Kentucky sought an extension of time for enactment of laws particularly for states which, like Kentucky, cannot enact necessary legislation without constitutional amendment.

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.2: For Tues., Dec.29

States To Draft Laws for Cities

Many of the forty-two legislatures meeting in January will consider laws which affect municipalities, ranging from the rapidly increasing transient problem to water resources, and in some states, state legislation for city and county manager enabling acts will come up, according to a joint round-up prepared by the American Municipal Association and the International City Managers' Association.

State legislation involving the cities will be deliberated on such varied subjects as taxes, liquor, civil service, municipal finance, highway regulations, voting methods and vocational education in the following states, as shown by the A.M.A. data: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas and Washington.

Two states, Illinois and South Dakota, are pushing immediate legislation to govern the transient and trailer population problem. Taxation affecting cities will be debated in at least eleven states -- Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Indiana, New York, New Jersey, South Dakota, Texas and Washington.

South Dakota and Colorado will consider civil service as it applies to municipalities. A law is sought in South Dakota to authorize those cities seeking it to set up a civil service system. An optional civil service law is being discussed in Colorado, particularly for policemen and firemen in second class cities. Some provisions for at least minimum qualifications for employees seemed to its advocates to be a natural corollary to the program for training for municipal employees. It was agreed to submit a state civil service enabling act which would authorize any city to adopt by ordinance a civil service system.

The International City Managers' Association has compiled the following list of states whose cities must go to the legislatures for special enabling action for change in form of government, such as for city manager: Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Rhode Island and West Virginia.

(MORE)

States which have enabling legislation providing that a limited number of cities, generally those of certain classes, may adopt the manager plan, are: Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Washington. In others, virtually all cities can adopt the manager plan without special legislative action.

Among the large cities now giving serious consideration to adoption of the council-manager form are Chicago, Ill., Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Pa., Atlanta, Ga., and Huntington, W. Va.

Clarence E. Ridley, executive director of the I.C.M.A., says:

"As I see it, the most desirable goal for 1937 is that of reducing the number of independent units of government, eliminating those areas that are too small for efficient and effective administrative units, thereby bringing about a considerable reduction in the cost of government in this country."

A break-down on some of the outstanding state legislation expected to be sought by cities in the 1937 legislatures, as seen by Clifford W. Ham, executive director of the A.M.A., follows:

ALABAMA--Taxation: Providing for a municipal share in the one and one-half gross receipts tax, and another providing that cities be given a share in the county road fund derived from state-collected six--cent gasoline tax. Finance: Providing that municipalities may issue special improvement bonds before consuming their constitutional debt authorization. Liquor regulations: Providing for an equitable distribution of liquor store revenue.

ARKANSAS--Taxation: Provision for exemption from tax on municipal purchases in event the sales tax is re-enacted; and provision in any new highway refunding legislation allowing cities to share in the state gasoline tax to be used in street construction and maintenance. Liquor regulations: Providing for second class cities and incorporated towns to share in liquor tax revenues.

CALIFORNIA--Taxation: Provision for preservation in the reenactment of the "in lieu" tax on vehicles of the clause providing for return of 25 per cent of the net revenue to the cities on basis of population; provision for a special fund by levying taxes to provide money to make a capital outlay for securing some permanent improvement on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. Finance: Provision for reconciliation between state and Federal banking laws in regard to payment of interest on active accounts (those subject to withdrawal without notice); and provision for clarification of present legal requirements with respect to filing municipal financial reports. Planning: Provision for amendment of law governing land subdivisions and the regulation of subdivisions now made by metes and bounds, and for an amendment seeking to clarify and simplify laws governing the filing of subdivision maps.

FLORIDA--"Home rule:" Legislation seeking home rule for cities in place of the uniform charter amendment in the state constitution.

IOWA--Highways: Provision for resurfacing out of state funds, highways within cities and towns of more than 2,500 population.

INDIANA--Taxation: Provision for cities to get larger share of the gasoline tax and automobile license fee funds. Liquor: Possible that changes will be sought in the state liquor law.

(MORE)

Taxation and finance: Possible legislation for requirement that transfer of funds from one department to another be approved by state tax board; possible action for statutes providing that assessments for material be made only where city can take advantage of labor furnished by W.P.A. or some other agency, thus lowering cost of the improvement against abutting property owners.

NEW YORK--Finance: Opposition is reported arising to the proposed constitutional debt and tax limitation amendments.

SOUTH DAKOTA--Taxation: Movements under way for following action-- To give municipalities 78 per cent of auto license fees for cars registered within the municipality; to return to cities 20 per cent of revenue produced from the sales tax and the net income tax, to be distributed to cities on basis of population; to clarify the gasoline tax law, so as to exempt cities from payment of the state gasoline tax on gasoline furnished for municipal functions; to make real estate assessable every two years, instead of annually.

TEXAS--Taxation: Exemption of cities from state gasoline tax; to seek municipal share in motor license fee revenue; provision that motor vehicle owners pay ad valorem taxes on such vehicles before a state license is issued.

NEW JERSEY--Taxation: A luxury sales tax is considered, similar to the $7,500,000 tax adopted this year by the Assembly, but which failed in the Senate; eventual revision of the state and municipal taxing structure is proposed to relieve municipalities of all expenditures save those for purely local purposes, and to lower present taxes on real estate. Finance: Deferment of the municipal budget control law, passed this year, to January 1, 1938.

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.7: For Wed., Dec.30

Civil Service Before 14 States

Fourteen states -- Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Tennessee -- are expected to receive merit bills for the consideration of their legislatures meeting in January, according to G. Lyle Belsley, executive director of the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada.

Meanwhile, the National Civil Service Reform League, of New York City, during 1936, has been busy organizing citizens individually and in groups with the avowed purpose of acting for better government through obtaining better personnel. The Civil Service Assembly has been actively consulting with national and local organizations desiring technical information in this field.

"The ferment produced in this field in 1936 seems likely to produce a potent brew of merit system extension and civil service improvement in 1937," Mr. Belsley said.

The following round-up prepared by the Civil Service Assembly shows the status of legislation, and what states may act when they convene in January:

ALABAMA -- A bill has been prepared for presentation and citizen support is expected.

ARIZONA -- This state may pass a bill providing for the merit system for its unemployment compensation law.

ARKANSAS -- The honorary Civil Service Commission appointed by Governor-elect Carl E. Bailey has completed preparation of a bill placing state employees under a merit system.

FLORIDA -- A merit system bill is now being prepared for presentation when the legislature convenes.

GEORGIA -- Civic organizations are expressing interest in providing a merit system for this state. Governor-elect Ed Rivers is interested.

INDIANA -- A bill to permit establishing of civil service commissions for fire fighters and policemen of municipalities is being supported by strong employee organizations. The League of Women Voters and other civic groups want the bill widened to include all municipal employees. The possibility exists that a state law for state employees may grow out of the current interest in the movement.

MICHIGAN -- Professor James K. Pollock and his Civil Service Study Commission, appointed by the Governor have completed a proposed merit system law. Governor-elect Frank Murphy has declared that he will approve the bill if certain changes are made, but has not yet made known what changes.

(MORE)

MINNESOTA -- A state civil service law has been prepared and will be introduced into the next legislature. A "city-county" merit law is being drafted which will follow the terminology of the proposed state law closely, and will combine the personnel agencies for cities and counties of three first class cities.

NEBRASKA -- A bill has been prepared by the League of Women Voters which would establish a personnel agency in this state. Governor Robert L. Cochran is said to be favorable to the bill as now written.

NORTH DAKOTA -- Legislators may introduce merit legislation at the next session.

SOUTH DAKOTA -- Cities are asking for a state enabling act which would permit establishing of municipal civil service commissions.

OKLAHOMA -- Governor Ernest W. Marland has expressed himself in favor of civil service. The League of Women Voters has indicated that next year it will fight this movement through to some action in the state.

PENNSYLVANIA -- The Pennsylvania Federation for the Merit System failed to get consideration of its legislation at the last session, but it will extend its activities into the new session.

TENNESSEE -- Governor-elect Gordon Browning has promised that a merit system will be established in the state. A merit bill is now being prepared.

* * *

News Bulletin of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLEARING HOUSE 1936
850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois Release No.4: For Thurs., Dec.31

States Confront Housing Authority Action

Recent announcements by Federal officials, backed by the public utterances of President Roosevelt during and after the campaign, indicate to housing authorities that Congress will take some definite action in the coming session to enact a law establishing a permanent public housing policy, says Coleman Woodbury, executive director of the National Association of Housing Officials.

If the forecasted decentralization takes place, local governments will of necessity face assumption of many legal, technical and financial problems hitherto undertaken by the Federal government. This increased degree of local participation, Mr. Woodbury points out, will require a type of state enabling legislation known as housing authority laws.

Among the more populous and urban states lacking statutes which would enable them fully to participate in a decentralized program are: Iowa, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Others lacking such legislation are: California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Kansas, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.

Only twenty-one states have passed such legislation, and in several of these the laws are applicable only to the largest city within the state confines.

Briefly, said Mr. Woodbury, housing authority legislation permits the establishment in cities or metropolitan areas, of an authority consisting of five unpaid members. These are similar to authorities used for several years to construct and operate improvements such as harbors, bridges, or special water conservancy districts. The housing authority's power is limited to the development, operation and maintenance of projects providing housing accommodations and related community facilities for families of low income. Authorities are granted the power to obtain sites by condemnation; to employ the necessary personnel; to conduct surveys of housing conditions; to engage in research; to accept grants of material or funds; to

(MORE)

raise funds by issuing bonds secured only by the income from the housing projects of the authority and therefore, not obligations of the city or state; and to manage the projects which they develop, or projects which may be acquired from others. Local administration of public housing by authorities has been found necessary because most local governments have neither the legal power nor the administrative organization necessary to engage in this type of work.

Without housing authority legislation, Mr. Woodbury continued, the 75 cities in which are located projects now under development by the Public Works Administration could neither take over the responsibility for managing these projects, nor engage in further projects which may be authorized. There remains the further necessity of provicing for both local grants and local credit looking to the date when the federal government may be unwilling to continue carrying the heavy burdens now imposed upon it. Two states already have indicated their awareness of these further problems. Last year the Massachusetts General Court had under consideration a bill authorizing cities or towns to appropriate a limited amount to be used as grants to supplement those by the federal government. This year the New York Legislature will consider a bill authorizing a large state bond issue to raise funds for loan to municipal housing authorities at low interest rates.

The mere passage of housing authority legislation by states and the creation of such authorities is not believed sufficient to continue public housing activity even on the small scale undertaken directly by the federal government in a demonstration capacity during recent years. Cities will find themselves faced with the problem of laying down long time programs that will be very difficult to define without thoroughly analyzing all aspects of city planning.

* * *

DATE DUE

GAYLORD

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
3 8198 318 115 746